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THE
NEW ADMINISTRATION;
CONTAINING
COMPLETE AND AUTHENTIC
BIOGRAPHIES
OF
Grant and his Cabinet.

BY
EDWARD WINSLOW MARTIN.

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ULYSSES S. GRANT,
President of the United States.

So much has been written of late concerning the new President of the United States that another biography of him, however brief, seems superfluous. Yet the present work would be incomplete without some mention of him. It is not our intention, however, to offer the reader anything like a biography of the distinguished head of the nation, but merely to glance briefly at some of the leading events of his life, by which we may hope to arrive at a fair estimate of his character.

ULYSSES SIMPSON GRANT was born at Point Pleasant, Clermont County, Ohio, about twenty-five miles above Cincinnati, on the 27th of April, 1822. He came of a race of soldiers, his ancestors having fought bravely in the the old French War and the War of the Revolution.

He was born the son of a tradesman in humble circumstances, and his youth was passed in a

country too recently settled to possess many of the charms of civilization. His early life was hard, practical, and unromantic, but exhibited in a marked degree many of the traits of energy, intensity of purpose, and self-reliance, for which his manhood has been distinguished. He was a stubborn, self-willed child ; he has developed into a firm, resolute man. He was fearless and fond of danger in his boyish pastimes ; he has shrunk from no peril, but has met and overcome every obstacle in his manhood. As a child he was remarkable for the readiness with which he devised the means of accomplishing difficult undertakings ; as a man this same fertility of resource has won him great and glorious victories.

His ambition inclined him to dislike his father's trade, and to crave a better education than the country-schools in his vicinity afforded. In order to gratify this wish, his father procured for him an appointment to a cadetship at West Point. He entered the Academy in 1839, and remained there four years.

He became a lieutenant of infantry in the regular army of the United States, in July, 1843.

He was then a little over twenty-one years of age. For the two years immediately succeeding his graduation he was employed against the Indians on the frontiers. He served gallantly through the war with Mexico, being engaged in every battle in that struggle except Buena Vista. His gallant and meritorious conduct in these engagements won him the brevet rank of Captain in 1847, and the full rank in 1853.

At the close of the Mexican War, he was stationed on the frontier of British America, and in 1854 resigned his commission in the army, and removed to St. Louis, where he married Miss Julia Dent. Soon after this he settled on a farm near St. Louis, and for a few years devoted himself to the business of this farm, which did not support him. In consequence of this he removed to Galena, Illinois, in 1859, and went into business there with his father and brother. He was residing there as a simple and almost obscure leather merchant when the attack upon Fort Sumter called the nation to arms.

Had any one at that time been called upon to name the future hero of the great war, the man

who should crush out the rebellion, and give peace to the land, he would have pointed to Scott, McClellan, McDowell, or some of the old soldiers whose names were on every tongue. Had he even so much as hinted that the obscure ex-Captain in the West would ever attain the command of a brigade in the new army, he would have been laughed at as an idiot. Even Grant himself had no expectation of doing more than contributing in a modest way to the success of the cause, by using his military knowledge for the purpose of organizing a company of volunteers.

As soon as the news of the President's call for troops reached him, he determined to offer his services to the Government. He said to a friend, "The Government educated me for the army, what I am I owe to my country. I have served her through one war, and live or die, will serve her through this."

He at once raised a company of volunteers, and marched it to Springfield, where he requested the Governor to give him his Captain's Commission. Being informed, however, that a friend desired the position, he generously withdrew in his favor.

Being appointed Adjutant-General of the State of Illinois soon after this, he administered the affairs of his department so ably, that the Illinois troops were sent forward with greater promptness and in better condition than the State authorities had ventured to hope. Says Governor Yates, "He was plain, very plain; but still, sir, something—perhaps his plain, straightforward modesty and earnestness—induced me to assign him a desk in the Executive office. In a short time, I found him to be an invaluable assistant in my office and in that of the Adjutant-General. He was soon after assigned to the command of the six camps of instruction which had been established in the State."

This quiet, humdrum life did not suit a man of Grant's character. He longed for activity. He had promptly offered his services to the Government, but no notice had been taken of his offer. In June, Governor Yates made him Colonel of the 21st Illinois Volunteers, and sent him to the field. Here his military skill made itself so conspicuous that his friends easily procured him a commission as brigadier-general of volunteers.

His first battle made him as many enemies as friends, for fully one half of the people of the Union soundly denounced his entire course in connection with the battle of Belmont.

Fort Donnelson won him the rank of major-general, and showed the man in his true character. He had come to attack a heavy force of the enemy, strongly intrenched, and the gunboats upon which he had depended so much, were worsted and made useless in their first encounter with the fort. Several days of heavy fighting had greatly exhausted his men, who were suffering extremely from the cold, and had not dislodged the enemy from their works. The obstinacy of the defence and the crippling of the gunboats had discouraged his men, and he was urged by Flag Officer Foote to intrench and await the overhauling and repairing of the gunboats. He was not disposed to adopt such a course, however. He knew that his attacks had been as vigorous as the defence of the Confederates had been stubborn, and he was convinced that they were as exhausted as his own army. Should he attack at once and boldly, he felt sure he could

secure the victory. It required a very nice and evenly balanced judgment to decide upon the proper time for making such an attack, a judgment possessed only by trained and experienced commanders. Fortunately for the country, Grant was possessed of this quality. He made his attack, disheartened the enemy, and won the victory.

Thus in less than a year the obscure leather merchant had risen to the high grade of Major-General in the Army of the United States, and had achieved the greatest victory which had ever been won upon the Continent. He had won his honors fairly. Political influence had done nothing for him. On the contrary, the politicians were at the very moment of his victory slandering him to the President, and scheming for his removal. He had risen by the simple force of his merits. He had not schemed or intrigued for his laurels. He had won them as the true knights of old won their spurs—in the field, and he was fairly entitled to enjoy them. He had shown military knowledge and skill of a high order, and an energy, promptness, and decision.

of which even his best friends had not believed him capable. He had confidence in himself, however, and in this confidence lies the secret of his success.

With his major-general's commission, Grant was given command of the District of West Tennessee. He had hardly entered upon his new sphere, before the terrible and bloody battle of Shiloh brought him again prominently before the public. The calm, unflinching courage, as well as the sound judgment which he displayed in that tremendous conflict, go far to establish his claims to military renown. The field was not of his own selection, but was chosen during his absence by the veteran General Charles F. Smith. He was with another part of the army trying to hurry it forward when the battle began, and did not reach the field until after his first lines had been driven in. Matters looked bad when he arrived, and continued to grow worse during the day, for the enemy had gained such advantages in the early part of the battle, that it was only with great difficulty that our ground could be held at all. Grant was everywhere during the

day, animating and encouraging his men, and attending personally to the execution of his most important orders. While others were despondent, he was calm and cool. His great hope was to hold his ground until night should put an end to the battle. Should he succeed in doing this, he meant to reorganize his columns under the cover of the darkness, and, with the first light the next morning, attack the enemy with a fury and determination which he felt sure would win success. He meant to do this whether Buell came up or not during the night. General Sherman has declared that Grant at this juncture related to him the story of the taking of Fort Donnelson, and explained to him his favorite theory "of the mutual exhaustion of both armies in every great battle, when, by some vast power you must rouse your own, and go in to triumph. He thought the rebels were about in the right condition then, and if it were not night, should attack ; but gave orders that they '*should be attacked at daylight.*'" *

* Phelps' Life of Grant.

He had no idea of retreating. When General Buell, who reached the field in advance of his army, asked him,

“What preparations have you made to secure your retreat, general?”

He replied,

“We shall not retreat, sir.”

“But it is possible,” said Buell, “and a prudent general always provides for contingencies.”

“Well, there are the boats,” said Grant.

“The boats!” said Buell, “but they will not hold over ten thousand men, and we have thirty thousand.”

“They will hold more than we shall retreat with,” was the grim rejoinder.

Grant’s favorite theory proved correct. The Southern forces were greatly exhausted and demoralized by the first day’s hard fighting, for General Beauregard acknowledges that on the second day they “fought bravely, but with the want of that animation and spirit which characterized them the preceding day.”

Calm, cool, collected and hopeful, the great soldier remained during the entire battle, and

there can be no doubt that this sublime confidence on his part contributed in a marked degree towards preserving the enthusiasm and determination of the troops. Nor was this confidence a mere idle feeling. It was based upon a profound knowledge of his profession, of the character and vigor of the enemy, and received on the spot the cordial endorsement of General Sherman. To hold his ground till night was his determination, and he did hold it. The arrival of Buell with fresh troops made the next day's task easier, but there can be no doubt that Grant would have attacked at dawn the next morning, even had Buell not been present, and when we consider the extent of the discouragement and demoralization which General Beauregard admits prevailed in his army, it is not asserting too much to say that the attack would have been successful.

As Commander of the Department of West Tennessee, the limits of which were bounded by the Mississippi and the Tennessee rivers, Grant exhibited administrative ability of the highest order. His rule was strict and stern, but strictness and severity were needed. So well pleased

with his conduct of affairs was the Government, that the President extended the limits of his command, so as to include the State of Mississippi, in which was situated the great stronghold of Vicksburg, the key to the Mississippi River.

When the Confederate leaders in the Fall of 1862 began the execution of their brilliant plan for dislodging him from the territory he had occupied, he penetrated their design instantly, and by a series of movements, no less brilliant and more successful than those of the enemy, repulsed their attacks both at Iuka and Corinth, and drove them in disorder across the Tallahatchie. Had his orders been obeyed implicitly the Southern army opposed to him would have been captured or destroyed, and the way to the rear of Vicksburg have been opened.

The country was delighted with the successes won by the silent soldier, but could hardly realize that the modest, unassuming, quiet man was really a great general. General Badeau very truly says: "The truth is, that Grant's extreme simplicity of behavior, and directness of expression, imposed on various officials, both above and

below him. They thought him a good, plain man, who had blundered into one or two successes, and who, therefore, could not be immediately removed; but they deemed it unnecessary to regard his judgment, or to count upon his ability. His superiors made their plans invariably without consulting him; and his subordinates sometimes sought to carry out their own campaigns in opposition or indifference to his orders, not doubting, that, with their superior intelligence, they could conceive and execute triumphs which would excuse or even vindicate their course."

His first campaign against Vicksburg was bold and skillful in its conception. Its failure was due to the treachery of the officer left in command at Holly Springs. By surrendering that post to the enemy, he exposed all Grant's communications to their mercy, and made it necessary for our army to retrace its steps.

The reader is familiar with the long and vexatious delays of the siege of Vicksburg; how plan after plan was tried only to find it a failure. He is also familiar with the fact that the country

was almost unanimous in demanding the removal of Grant, and the appointment of another commander. Mr. Lincoln seems to have been the only person who appreciated him, for when urged to remove him, he replied that he would first "try him a little longer," as he "liked the man."

Amidst all this clamor for removal, all the denunciation which was heaped upon him, Grant was as calm, as hopeful, as silent as ever. He indulged in no unseemly boasts, in no defence of any kind. He persevered in his undertakings, answering all fault-finders with the confident assertion, "*I shall take Vicksburg.*" Even while his generals questioned the soundness of his plans they could not help being affected by his confidence. Sherman, especially, while frankly condemning his commander's plan, earnestly assured him of his warm and hearty coöperation in any undertaking the latter should see proper to venture upon.

All the approved plans having failed, Grant resolved to put into execution one of his own conception. This was nothing more nor less than

to sever his connections with his base of operations, plunge boldly into the enemy's country, invest Vicksburg and open a new line of communications with his fleet. The reader well knows how he passed his gunboats and transports by the batteries, marched his army to Hard Times Bend, crossed the river, and moved boldly upon the Southern forces, defeating and driving them at every step. The rapidity with which his movements were made, the vigor with which his blows were struck, and the boldness and brilliancy of his entire plan of operations confused and bewildered the enemy, and before they recovered from their surprise, he had driven Johnson out of Jackson, penned up Pemberton's beaten army in Vicksburg, and had opened a new and secure line of communication with the fleet under Admiral Porter. In eighteen days he had marched two hundred miles, crossed two rivers, fought five battles, taken six thousand five hundred prisoners, killed and wounded six thousand of the enemy, captured eighty-eight cannon of all kinds, compelled the abandonment of Grand Gulf, captured the Capital of Mississippi,

and destroyed the railroads leading into Vicksburg. His army was firmly planted in the rear of the Southern stronghold, the fall of which had become a mere question of time. A few weeks later, and the city, with thirty-two thousand prisoners, with the arms and equipments of the garrison, fell into his hands.

This magnificent capture—the greatest ever made in war—was due to Grant alone, and it more than vindicated his genius. He had conceived and carried out the movements which led to it, in the face of remonstrances from his superiors, and predictions of failure from his subordinates. Says General Badeau,

“So Grant was alone. His most trusted associates besought him to change his plans; while his superiors were astounded by his temerity, and strove to interfere. Soldiers of reputation, and civilians in high place, condemned in advance a campaign that seemed to them as hopeless as it was unprecedented. If he failed, the country would concur with the Government and the generals. Grant knew all this, and appreciated the danger, but was as invulnerable to the apprehensions of ambition as to the entreaties of

friendship, or the anxieties even of patriotism. That quiet confidence which never forsook him, and which amounted, indeed, almost to a feeling of fate, was uninterrupted. Having once determined in a matter that required irreversible decision, he never reversed, nor even misgave, but was steadily loyal to himself and his plans. This absolute and implicit faith was, however, as far as possible from conceit or enthusiasm. It was simply a consciousness, or conviction rather, which brought the very strength it believed in ; which was itself strength ; and which inspired others with a trust in him, because he was able thus to trust himself."

Henceforward there could be no doubt in the mind of any candid person that Grant was a great soldier. His Vicksburg campaign was a departure from the old principles of war, and one of the boldest and most brilliant evidences of his genius that he could have given. It showed that he was not only capable of organizing a great campaign, but that he could move and fight his army rapidly and successfully, and find victory where others only saw danger and disaster.

Well did he deserve the plaudits and blessings which went up from every part of the land, when the news came flashing over the wires that Vicksburg was ours. No man was ever tried more severely by much praise, and none ever passed better through the ordeal. He had vindicated his own genius and won a great victory for the country, and he was satisfied. He exhibited no elation, indulged in no boasting or self-laudation. In the midst of his success he was more moderate and modest than ever, and equally as reticent. Instead of seeking a holiday and coming North to enjoy the praise he had won, he applied himself at once to the administrative details of his department, and soon had the whole system in the best condition.

Ordered to proceed to Chattanooga for the purpose of retrieving the disasters which had befallen Rosecrans, he hurried forward, though partially disabled by an accident, making dispositions as he went for reinforcing the Army of the Cumberland, whose heroic commander had pledged himself to hold Chattanooga until conquered by starvation. Having received his

orders from the Secretary of War, in person, and made his arrangements to bring up his re-enforcements as rapidly as possible, he hurried forward to Chattanooga accompanied only by his staff. He reached the town at night, unexpected and unannounced. He was cold, wet, and hungry, and General Thomas at first scarcely recognized him.

Without the loss of a moment, he set to work to provide means for driving off the enemy. The army was near starving, and the enemy had closely invested our position. Bragg was confident of success, and our own men had begun to despond. In a fortnight, however, the situation was changed. The army was re-enforced and well supplied; the enemy had been driven into their main line on Missionary Ridge, and everything was in readiness for a bold and vigorous attack upon the Confederates. Instead of submitting to a siege, as Bragg had expected, Grant had assumed the offensive, and was ready to crush his antagonist. The brilliant success which crowned his attack decided the war in the West, and opened the way for Sherman in the ensuing

Spring. The immediate fruits were the relief of Chattanooga and Knoxville, the salvation of Tennessee, and the capture of six thousand prisoners, seven thousand stand of arms, and forty pieces of artillery. It was pronounced by an eye-witness, himself an officer of merit and experience*, the best ordered and best delivered battle of the war.

The thanks of Congress, a gold medal from the same body, the thanks of State Legislatures, and public assemblies of all kinds were showered upon the victor, and the whole land rang with his praise. All this while he was passing to and fro in his new Department, making himself familiar with the country, and the wants of the army, and selecting the best routes for bringing up supplies. The snow was deeper than had been known for thirty years, and often the General and his staff were forced to wade through drifts, through which their half-frozen horses were powerless to carry them.

The dangerous illness of his eldest son called

*Quartermaster-General Meigs.

him away from his command for a few days. The citizens of St. Louis overwhelmed him with proffers of distinguished honors, but he declined them all with the single exception of a public dinner. He shrunk from display, from everything that savored of egotism.

Congress conferred upon him the highest rank in the army—that of Lieutenant-General—and he promptly repaired to Washington to receive his commission at the hands of the President. This done, he applied himself at once to the task before him, declining all public honors.

Invested with the chief command of all the armies of the United States, he relinquished to Sherman the direction of affairs in the Mississippi Valley, and applied himself to the task of defeating the Army of Northern Virginia, and capturing the Capital of the Southern Confederacy. He knew the magnitude of his task, and entered upon it quietly, but with energy.

The undertaking proved more difficult than he had anticipated, but he clung to it with a grim energy and resoluteness of purpose which disheartened the enemy not a little, and encouraged

to a corresponding degree the people of the loyal States. In General Lee he had a great soldier to contend with, but he did not doubt his final success, and the sequel proved the justness of his convictions. He compelled the surrender of the Army of Northern Virginia, made a prisoner of the great leader of the South, and brought the Rebellion to a triumphant close.

In the hour of success he was greater than ever. No harshness or unkindness was shown to the vanquished. Bad as he regarded their cause, he knew that his prisoners were his countrymen, and that they had shown courage and heroism worthy of the American name, and he was too true a soldier not to pity them in their misfortunes. So kindly did he deal with them that many shed tears when informed of his generosity. He had been a terrible foe, and he now proved a generous friend.

Congress revived the grade of "General of the Army of the United States" for him, in gratitude for his great services. He accepted the new rank modestly, and administered the duties appertaining to it with vigor and ability. As time wore

on the powers confided to him were increased to an enormous extent. They were safe in his hands, for he used them with a moderation and forbearance remarkable in any man. Self was left out of the question, and everything was done to give peace and restored prosperity to the country. He performed his labors with the same modesty and reticence which always distinguished him. The nation has sustained him in every act. He has won the confidence and affection of his countrymen fairly, and they have never failed him yet.

The Republican party, in selecting him as their candidate for the Presidency, but acted in accordance with the known wishes of the people of the Union, who regard his name as the symbol of order, peace, and prosperity. His election was a foregone conclusion from the time of his nomination.

He has entered upon his new duties as the chosen head of the American nation, with the brightest prospects ever enjoyed by any President. He has the perfect confidence of the whole people. There may be, and doubtless will be, political cliques which will oppose and denounce him, but

he will always possess the confidence and affection of the country at large as long as he remains true to the principles which have guided his past life. Even his political opponents are prepared to accord him a hearty support, and a very large class of them are sincerely glad of his election. The champion of order, peace, prosperity, and reform, he has a future before him which he need not fear to tread. Millions of prayers go up daily for his welfare and success, and millions of hands are ready to co-operate with him in the good work before him.

That the public confidence in him will be more than realized, we feel fully warranted in asserting. His history, from the time he devoted himself to his country's cause, is a sure guarantee for the future.

A man who, amidst all praise and honors which have been showered upon him so lavishly, has remained so truly modest and simple, so utterly free from vanity or elation, who has ruled himself so firmly, may well be trusted to govern a nation with wisdom and moderation ; and one who has remained so free from taint, in the midst of so

much corruption, may safely be relied upon to keep pure the fountains of our national life and prosperity.

As for the principles by which his administration will be guided, he has himself well enunciated them in the following brief but explicit "Inaugural," with which we conclude this hasty review :

"CITIZENS OF THE UNITED STATES :—Your suffrages having elected me to the office of President of the United States, I have, in conformity with the constitution of our country, taken the oath of office prescribed therein. I have taken this oath without mental reservation and with the determination to do, to the best of my ability, all that it requires of me.

"The responsibilities of the position I feel, but accept them without fear. The office has come to me unsought. I commence its duties untrammelled. I bring to it a conscientious desire and determination to fill it to the best of my ability to the satisfaction of the people. On all leading questions agitating the public mind I will always express my views to Congress and urge them according to my judgment, and when I think it advisable will exercise the constitutional privilege of inter-

posing a veto to defeat measures which I oppose. But all laws will be faithfully executed, whether they meet my approval or not.

“ I shall on all subjects have a policy to recommend, none to enforce, against the will of the people. Laws are to govern all alike, those opposed to as well as those in favor of them. I know no method to secure the repeal of bad or obnoxious laws so effective as their stringent execution.

“ The country having just emerged from a great rebellion, many questions will come before it for settlement in the next four years which preceding administrations have never had to deal with. In meeting these it is desirable that they should be appreciated calmly, without prejudice, hate, or sectional pride, remembering that the greatest good to the greatest number is the object to be attained. This requires security of person, property and for religious and political opinion in every part of our common country, without regard to local prejudice. All laws to secure this end will receive my best efforts for their enforcement.

“ A great debt has been contracted in securing to us and our posterity the Union. The payment of this, principal and interest, as well as the re-

turn to specie basis as soon as it can be accomplished without material detriment to the debtor class or to the country at large, must be provided for.

“To protect the national honor every dollar of the government indebtedness should be paid in gold, unless otherwise expressly stipulated in the contract. Let it be understood that no repudiator of one farthing of our public debt will be trusted in public places, and it will go far towards strengthening a credit which ought to be the best in the world, and will ultimately enable us to replace the debt with bonds bearing less interest than we now pay. To this should be added a faithful collection of the revenue, a strict accountability to the Treasury for every dollar collected, and the greatest practicable retrenchment in expenditures in every department of government.

“When we compare the paying capacity of the country now, with ten States still in poverty from the effects of the war, but soon to emerge, I trust, into greater prosperity than ever before, with its paying capacity twenty-five years ago, and calculate what it probably will be twenty-five years hence, who can doubt the feasibility of paying every dollar then with more ease than we now pay for useless luxuries? Why, it looks as though Providence had bestowed upon us a strong box

the precious metals locked up in the sterile mountains of the far West, which we are now forging the key to unlock, to meet the very contingency that is now upon us.

“Ultimately it may be necessary to increase the facilities to reach these riches, and it may be necessary, also, that the general government should give its aid to secure this access. But that should only be when a dollar of obligation to pay secures precisely the same sort of dollar in use now, and not before.

“While the question of specie payments is in abeyance the prudent business man is careful about contracting debts payable in the distant future. The nation should follow the same rule. A prostrate commerce is to be rebuilt, and all industries encouraged. The young men of the country—those who form this age and must be rulers twenty-five years hence—have a peculiar interest in maintaining the national honor. A moment’s reflection upon what will be our commanding influence among the nations of the earth in their day, if they are only true to themselves, should inspire them with national pride. All divisions, geographical, political and religious, can join in this common sentiment.

“How the public debt is to be paid or specie

payments resumed is not so important as that a plan should be adopted and acquiesced in. A united determination to do is worth more than divided counsels upon the method of doing. Legislations on this subject may not be necessary now, nor even advisable ; but it will be when the civil law is more fully restored in all parts of the country, and trade resumes its wonted channels. It will be my endeavor to execute all laws in good faith, to collect all revenues assessed and to have them properly disbursed. I will, to the best of my ability, appoint to office only those who will carry out this design.

“In regard to foreign policy I would deal with nations as equitable law requires individuals to deal with each other, and I would protect the law-abiding citizen, whether of native or foreign birth, wherever his rights are jeopardized or the flag of our country floats. I would respect the rights of all nations, demanding equal respect for our own. If others depart from this rule in their dealings with us we may be compelled to follow their precedent.

“The proper treatment of the original occupants of this land, the Indians, is one deserving of careful study. I will favor any course towards them which tends to their civilization, Christianization and ultimate citizenship.

“The question of suffrage is one which is likely to agitate the public so long as a portion of the citizens of the nation are excluded from its privileges in any State. It seems to me very desirable that this question should be settled now, and I entertain the hope and express the desire that it may be by the ratification of the fifteenth amendment to the Constitution.

“In conclusion, I ask patient forbearance one towards another throughout the land, and a determined effort on the part of every citizen to do his share towards cementing a happy Union, and I ask the prayers of the nation to Almighty God in behalf of this happy consummation.”

SCHUYLER COLFAX,

Vice-President of the United States.

LIKE his immediate superior in office, Mr. Vice-President Colfax has reached his high position by the force of his own unaided genius.

He was born in the City of New York, on the 23rd of March, 1823, and is consequently in his forty-sixth year. He comes of good stock, his paternal grandfather having been the commander of Washington's Life Guards during the Revolution, and his grandmother, on the same side, a niece of General Philip Schuyler, of New York. His father died four months before his birth, leaving his mother in straightened circumstances, so that the childhood of the future Vice-President was passed almost in poverty.

He was sent at an early age to the grammar-school of his district, from which he was promoted to the High School in Crosby street. The public schools of the Metropolis had not then attained

the degree of excellence for which they are now famous, and the means of improvement held out by them were but limited. Nevertheless, young Colfax was quick to profit by them, and proved so bright and apt a pupil as to win the highest praise from his instructors.

When he was ten years old, he was taken from school, his mother's means being too limited to continue his education. A friend received him into his store as a clerk, and he remained there three years, contributing by his slender earnings to the support of his widowed mother, and giving perfect satisfaction to his employer. At the end of that time, his mother having married a gentleman named Mathews, removed with her husband to St. Joseph County, Indiana, and took her son with her. This was in 1836. Upon reaching Indiana, the boy obtained a clerkship in a store in the town of New Carlisle, and held it until he had completed his seventeenth year.

In 1840, although still a boy, he made his first appearance in public life. He was appointed Deputy-Auditor of the County, and for the better

discharge of his duties removed to the town of South Bend, where he has continued to reside.

Appreciating the fact that his advantages for improvement had been limited, he applied himself diligently during such time as he could spare from his official duties, to remedy the defects in his education. Strictly speaking, he had no leisure hours, for the time that others would have spent in recreation, he devoted to a thorough and systematic course of study. He read law, history, biography, travels, everything that could add to his store of knowledge or improve his mind. His friends entertained a high opinion of his legal knowledge, and often consulted him upon points of law, in preference to applying to a regular practitioner.

In 1845, when just twenty-two years old, he established "*The St. Joseph Valley Register*," a weekly journal, of which he was sole editor and proprietor. He even learned to set type in order that he might work at the case, and thus diminish the cost of composition. The paper met with, and passed through, the usual difficulties and vicissitudes of a country journal, but was at length

established on a paying basis. The office with all its fixtures was destroyed by fire a few years after the beginning of the enterprise, but Mr. Colfax made good his losses, and started out with better prospects than before. He continued his connection with the paper for about twenty years, writing regularly for it one letter per week during his earlier Congressional career. Mrs. Stowe says of this paper :

“ Besides paying well, the *Register*, as conducted by Mr. Colfax, is entitled to the much higher praise of having been a useful, interesting and a morally pure paper, always on the side of what is good and right in morals and society. It has been, for instance, constantly in favor of temperance reform; and it has always avoided the masses of vile detail which so many papers of respectable position manage to distribute in families under the pretence that they must give full news of police reports and criminal trials.”

A village debating society afforded him the means of becoming a proficient and ready speaker, and this advantage, like all the rest, was carefully

and conscientiously improved. His friend, Mr. John D. Defrees, now the accomplished Superintendent of the Public Printing, and then the proprietor of the *Indianapolis Journal*, made him reporter of the debates of the State Senate, which post he held for several years. It was here that he laid the foundation of that intimate acquaintanceship with parliamentary forms and law, which has made him so efficient a Speaker of the lower House of Congress.

In politics he was a Whig, and he earnestly advocated the principles of that party in the columns of his newspaper, and on the stump. In 1848 he was sent as a delegate to the National Whig Convention, which nominated General Taylor, and was chosen Secretary of that body. The county in which he resided was thoroughly Democratic, but so great was his personal popularity that, in 1850, he was elected, by a handsome majority, to a seat in the Convention which framed the present Constitution of the State of Indiana. In this body he distinguished himself by the earnestness and eloquence with which he opposed the

measure forbidding the settlement in the State, of free colored men.

In 1851 he was nominated by his party to represent his district in Congress. The district was so strongly democratic that the election of a Whig seemed an impossibility. Nevertheless Mr. Colfax's opponent was elected by only 238 majority in a poll of 18,474 votes. He was offered a renomination at the next election, but declined it in consequence of his business engagements, and his party was defeated by over one thousand majority. A nomination to the State Senate, with a fair prospect of success, had been declined previous to his first Congressional campaign. He was a member of the National Whig Convention of 1852, which nominated General Scott, and took a prominent part in the campaign which resulted in the defeat of his party.

In 1854 he was elected to Congress by a majority of 1,766 votes over his Democratic competitor, and upon the meeting of the Thirty-fourth Congress in 1855, was appointed by the Speaker a member of the Committee on Elec-

tions. He distinguished himself in the struggle which preceded the election of Mr. Banks as Speaker, and detected and foiled two of the best planned and most ingenious manœuvres of the Democratic party to get possession of the Chair.

During the debates on the famous Kansas-Nebraska Bill, Mr. Colfax was the earnest and fearless champion of freedom, and delivered two powerful speeches in behalf of the free settlers, and exposed and denounced the outrages practised upon them. So highly did the Republican party esteem his first address on this subject, that it was re-printed at the expense of the party, and circulated as a campaign document during the Presidential campaign of 1856. During his first session in Congress, Mr. Colfax took and maintained a leading position in the ranks of his party, and gave such satisfaction to his constituents that he was returned to the Thirty-fifth Congress by a majority of 1,036 over Mr. Stuart, his Democratic competitor.

In the third session of the Thirty-fourth Congress, he delivered an able address in favor of a repeal of the duty on sugar. His argument was

regarded as unanswerable; but the protective ideas of the House could not be overcome by any argument.

In the case of James W. Simonton, a recusant witness, he protested against any violation of the rights of a citizen. Said he :

“I agree with the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. Davis) in one thing, and that is, that the witness having stated that there were members of this house who had approached him with propositions for the sale of their votes, should have answered the questions propounded to him by the Select Committee. But he is an American citizen. He stands here at your bar, and has the right before he is confined for even an hour, to be heard, either by himself or counsel. And I move to amend the resolution by striking out all after the word ‘Resolved, and inserting ‘That he shall have the privilege of being heard at the bar of this House, in person or by counsel.’”

The reader will not forget that when a resolution was introduced into the House last year by General Butler, authorizing the Speaker to open and inspect the private correspondence of another recusant witness, Mr. Colfax indignantly declared that the House had no power to authorize such an outrage upon the rights of any citizen.

At the opening of the Thirty-fifth Congress, he was appointed a member of the Committee on Indian Affairs.

He favored strong and severe measures towards the people of Utah, for the purpose of compelling them to perform their obligations to the General Government; and urged a revision of the neutrality laws for the purpose of vindicating the national honor by putting a stop to filibustering expeditions from our shores. Said he:

“Mr. CHAIRMAN—I concur with the language which fell from the gentleman from New York (Mr. Cochrane) when he offered his amendment; and I like that amendment because it was clear and decisive. It meant something. It would have called forth an expression of the opinion of the committee upon the question which is now agitating this entire country. But I regret that the gentleman should have afterwards modified his amendment so that it would call for no expression of opinion whatever; and I now offer my amendment to the amendment, for the purpose of having a test vote in the committee upon the question whether they believe the neutrality laws ought to be made more rigorous and efficient, or not. We owe it to ourselves, and to our country’s

reputation, that we shall see that these laws shall not be full of loopholes and escapes, whereby expeditions can go from our shores under the disguise of agricultural expeditions and bands of emigrants, and that we shall never allow this country to be made a place where expeditions of a piratical character may be fitted out and precipitated upon other and weaker nations in our vicinity. I, therefore, desire to ascertain the sense of this committee, that a clear expression of their opinion may be sent to the country upon this important question. I desire a test vote upon this question."

He warmly advocated the granting of pensions to the veterans of the War of 1812, and of the Indian wars of that period, declaring that the grant was "a debt of individual justice and of national honor. All of those men who were in the second war of American Independence are now in the evening of their days and decline of their lives; and the small pittance proposed by this bill to be given to them would assist at least in smoothing their passage to the grave."

The Postal affairs of the nation received his earnest care from the time of his entrance into

Congress, and he was from the first an uncompromising enemy of the "franking swindle." His best efforts were in favor of retrenchment and reform, and of an economical and judicious expenditure of the public funds.

In 1858, he was returned to the Thirty-sixth Congress by a majority of 1,931 votes.

The Thirty-sixth Congress met just after the John Brown affair at Harper's Ferry, and in the midst of the intense political excitement which culminated in the Rebellion. The slavery question was being violently agitated, and the North and South were arrayed against each other in a contest which admitted of no compromise. The excitement invaded both Houses of Congress, breaking out there first in the famous "Helper Book quarrel." The Republican candidate for Speaker, the Hon. Mr. (now Senator) Sherman, of Ohio, had endorsed this book, and had urged its general circulation in the Free States, and the Southern members endeavored to force upon the House a resolution declaring that no man who had endorsed the book was fit to be Speaker of the House. The struggle over the Speakership

was unusually exciting and protracted. It delayed the organization of the House several months, and at length resulted in a compromise, by which the Hon. Mr. Pennington of New Jersey, a Republican, was elected Speaker.

Mr. Colfax took a leading part in this memorable struggle, asserting and maintaining the rights of his party on all occasions, and dealing some of the hardest blows delivered from the Republican side of the House during the entire contest.

Upon the organization of the House, in February 1860, he was made Chairman of the Post Office Committee, of the House ; for which position he was eminently qualified by reason of his great knowledge of the affairs and wants of that department. As Chairman of that Committee, he either originated or procured the adoption of many of the most important features of our present postal system. He secured to the Pacific Coast and the Western Territories that splendid overland mail system, which is the pride and boast of the far West. He was the firm and constant friend of the Great Pacific Railway. He procured the establishment of post offices and

mail routes in the Territories, knowing that there was no surer way of encouraging emigration thither. He introduced reforms into the ocean mail service. He procured the passage of the law allowing publishers of newspapers and periodicals to inform their patrons of the expirations of their subscriptions by a printed notice on the wrapper. He reformed the drop letter system, introduced the bill allowing the return of uncalled-for letters to the writer thereof after a given time—a measure which has done much to facilitate the business of the country. The telegraph to the Pacific received his warm support, and everything in his power was done to bring the Western Coast into more intimate relations with the Atlantic States. He embarked heartily in the Presidential Campaign of 1860, advocating with his pen and voice the election of Mr. Lincoln. He had the satisfaction of seeing his State carried by the Republican party by a majority of six thousand. During this same campaign, he was re-elected to Congress, for a fourth term, by a majority of 3,402 votes.

The second session of the Thirty-sixth Congress

was that which immediately preceded the War. Mr. Colfax, as Chairman of the Post Office Committee, introduced a bill in January 1861, to discontinue the mails in the States which had seceded from the Union. The measure was opposed by the Southern Congressmen, who still held their seats, and was defeated for the time. There can be no doubt that Mr. Colfax was right in proposing the measure, for the sudden discontinuance of all postal facilities in the revolted States would have occasioned an immense amount of dissatisfaction and confusion in those States, and have done much to induce the people thereof to return to their allegiance to the General Government.

A strong effort was made to induce Mr. Lincoln to give Mr. Colfax a place in his first Cabinet, as Postmaster General. Being a warm personal friend of Mr. Colfax, the President would have made the appointment cheerfully, but for the fact that the Secretary of the Interior had already been chosen from Indiana.

In the Thirty-seventh Congress, Mr. Colfax was re-appointed Chairman of the Post Office

Committee. From this time, throughout the whole period of the Rebellion, he exerted himself actively in behalf of all measures calculated to strengthen the hands of the Government against the public enemy. He was heart and soul for the restoration of the Union, and was quick to perceive that no half-way measures would accomplish that result.

The Army received his especial care. Appreciating the anxiety which those at home would feel to hear from their friends and relatives at the front, and knowing that the troops would rarely be in possession of surplus money, he introduced and procured the passage of a law, allowing soldiers in the army to send their letters through the mails without pre-paying the postage, which was to be collected at the point of destination. Soon after this, he procured the passage of another law, requiring that all pre-paid letters to soldiers in any regiment in the service of the Union, and directed to a point where they had been stationed, should be forwarded, whenever practicable, to any other point to which they

might have been ordered, without additional postage.

His eulogy upon the heroic Baker, elicited universal admiration, being considered one of the finest efforts ever listened to in the House.

In the fall of 1862 he was re-elected to Congress, as the champion of the Administration and its measures. The Government was then in the midst of its heaviest reverses, and the confidence of the country in the ability of the Administration was sorely shaken. It was conceded by all that no other man but Mr. Colfax could possibly be returned from his district, in which considerable disaffection existed. The election was close and exciting, and Mr. Colfax was returned by a majority of 249 votes. The victory was decisive, under the circumstances, and a striking proof of the great confidence reposed in their representative by the people of the district.

Although a jealous foe to any infringement of the personal rights or liberties of the citizen, he advocated the bill to indemnify the President, and those acting under his orders, for the suspension of the *habeas corpus*, and acts done in pursuance

of the same. He knew the President intimately, and had confidence that he would not abuse the extraordinary powers he had assumed—the firm exercise of which Mr. Colfax was persuaded was necessary to the salvation of the country.

He favored the admission of West Virginia into the Union, as a State, and voted for the bill to that effect.

In January, 1863, he reported a bill authorizing the Postmaster General to allow the transportation through the mails, at book postage rates, of small packages, not exceeding four pounds in weight, sent by persons in the loyal States, to their relatives and friends in the Army and Navy.

He inaugurated measures making the rates of postage uniform all over the country, and giving postmasters fixed salaries instead of fluctuating commissions. He procured the introduction of the free carrier system, and introduced several other important and useful reforms.

Upon the meeting of the Thirty-eighth Congress, in December, 1863, he was chosen Speaker of the House of Representatives, a graceful and

fitting recognition by that body of his eminent services. Being charged with the duty of presiding over the deliberations of the House, he was not connected with any special measure during this Session ; but his influence, which was great, was always exerted in behalf of the measures of the Government.

In the Fall of 1864, he was returned to the Thirty-ninth Congress by a majority of 1,680. During this campaign he exerted himself warmly in favor of the re-election of Mr. Lincoln, and had the satisfaction of witnessing the splendid triumph of his party in November of that year.

His course as Speaker of the House, during the Sessions of the Thirty-eighth Congress, won him the hearty approval of both the Republicans and Democrats in that body and the warmest tribute to him at the close of the Second Session came from the brilliant Democratic orator, Mr. S. S. Cox, then of Ohio, but now of New York.

It was his sad privilege to receive the last farewell the Martyr President ever spoke on earth, and to stand by his death bed, and to watch the grandly-simple soul of the great man go out into eternity

The last sad rites paid to his dead friend and chief, he turned his face westward. It had been his desire for a long time to visit the far West and the Pacific Coast, and see for himself that great and growing country, in whose behalf he had labored so faithfully. His journey across the Continent was one continuous ovation. Everywhere he was received with demonstrations of the profoundest respect and the warmest friendship. His expectations of the importance and resources of this portion of the country were more than realized, and the knowledge gained by him in this journey will prove of the greatest benefit to the far West. He passed over the plains, along the great overland route, visited the towns and cities of the distant territories and of the Pacific States ; inspected the mines, railroads and internal improvements in that section, and came home better prepared than ever before, to act in behalf of this growing and enterprising portion of the Union.

Upon his return from the Pacific Coast, Mr. Colfax repaired to Washington to take his seat in the Thirty-ninth Congress, of which body he

was elected Speaker. He presided over the stormy deliberations of that memorable session, which marked the commencement of the unhappy quarrel between the President and Congress, and from which the country has suffered so much. He was a warm advocate of the second Freedman's Bureau Bill, the Civil Rights Bill, the Tenure of Office Act, and all the Reconstruction measures of Congress. He endorsed the proceedings which resulted in the impeachment of President Johnson, the last step being one of which he, in connection with the Republican party, heartily approved of.

In the fall of 1866, he was re-elected to Congress by a majority of 2,148 votes. He was elected Speaker of the Fortieth Congress—this being the third time he was chosen to that elevated position. His conduct as presiding officer of the House during the six years of his Speakership is the source of the most earnest satisfaction to his friends. He presided over the stormy sessions of that body with a grace and dignity which won him the admiration of all his associates, and with a fairness which elicited the

praise of men his political opponents. He has been well termed "the most popular Speaker since the days of Henry Clay."

The National Convention of the Union Republican Party, met at Chicago on the 20th of May, 1868, and after nominating General Grant as their candidate for the Presidency, conferred upon Mr. Colfax their nomination for the Vice-Presidency. He was chosen amidst a storm of enthusiasm which showed that his friends had not miscalculated his strength. The news of his nomination was at once telegraphed to him at Washington. The news found him in the Speaker's Room at the Capitol.

"On the receipt of this dispatch," says a correspondent of the *Tribune*, "the room rang with cheers, which were again and again repeated. Mr. Colfax was congratulated by the entire company, and the scene thereafter may be imagined. Telegrams now came pouring in on him from all quarters, which it was utterly impossible to answer. The room was thronged with visitors, all eager to shake his hand, and at one time it looked as though escape from his thousand ad-

mirers was an utter impossibility. Democrats and Republicans, Wade men and Wilson men, all beset him, and the expression of hearty good wishes and good will has been seldom equalled. As he was leaving the room the employees of the Capitol gathered around him in the most affectionate manner and tendered him their regards. Walking through the Capitol grounds, he was stopped by citizens who had never spoken to him before, but to whom his features were familiar, and they rushed up to him and shook him by the hand. His progress up the Avenue was indeed an ovation. No man has recently been the recipient of more hearty and soul-felt good wishes than the next Vice-President of this Republic. The choice of the Convention for the first and second positions in the gift of the people, was everywhere approved by Republicans, and even Democrats conceded the wisdom of the nominations.

Mr. Colfax took an active part in the Presidential campaign, working hard for the success of the Republican ticket. The result of the struggle is well known to the reader. "Grant and

Colfax " were elected President and Vice-President by handsome majorities, and the principles of the Republican party were a third time endorsed by the people of the country at large.

During the Fall of 1868, Mr. Colfax was married to Miss Nellie Wade, of Ohio, a neice of Senator Wade of that State.

He continued to preside over the deliberations of the House during the second session of the Fortieth Congress, rendering good service to the country and to his party during that time. Not the least of these services was the firm and determined manner with which he put down the disturbance created by General Butler and others, during the official counting of the Electoral Votes of the States, in the joint Convention of the two Houses of Congress, in February last.

On the morning of the 3d of March, he called Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, to the Chair, and requested him to preside over the House until the election of his successor. Then turning to the House, he announced his resignation of the Speakership, accompanying it with the following eloquent and appropriate remarks :

“GENTLEMEN: The opening of the legislative day, at the close of which I must enter upon another sphere of duty, requires me to tender to you this resignation of the office which by your kindness and confidence I have held; to take effect on the election of a Speaker for the brief remainder of this session. The parting word, amongst friends about to separate, is always a regretful one; but the farewell which takes me from this hall, in which so many years have been spent, excites in me emotions which it would be useless to attempt to conceal. The fourteen years during which I have been associated with the representatives of the people here, have been full of eventful legislation, of exciting issues, and of grave decisions, vitally affecting the entire republic. All these with the accompanying scenes, which so often reproduced in this arena of debate, the warmth of feeling of our antagonizing constituencies, have passed into the domain of history. And I but refer to them to express the joy which, apparently, is shared by the mass of our countrymen, that the storm-cloud of war, which has so long darkened our national horizon, at last passed away, leaving our imperilled Union saved, and that by the decree of the people more powerful than Presidents, or Congresses, or armies, liberty was proclaimed throughout the

land to all the inhabitants thereof. But I cannot leave you without one word of rejoicing over the present condition of our republic amongst the nations of the earth, with our military power and almost illimitable resources, exemplified by the war that developed them ; with our rapidly augmenting population, and the welcome to our gates to the oppressed of all climes ; with our vast and increasing agricultural, mechanical, manufacturing, and mineral capacities ; with our vantage on the two great oceans of the globe, and our almost completed Pacific Railroad uniting these opposite shores and becoming the highway ; the United States of America commands that respect among the powers of the world which insures the maintenance of all its national rights and the security of all its citizens from oppression or injustice abroad. Nor is this all. The triumphal progress of free institutions here has had its potential influence beyond the sea. The right of the people to govern, based on the sacred principle of our revolution, that all governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed, is everywhere advancing, but with slow and measured steps, but with a rapidity that within a few years has been so signally illustrated in Great Britain, Spain, Italy, Prussia, Hungary, and other lands. May

we not hope that by the moral but powerful force of our example, fetters may everywhere be broken, and that some of us may live to see that happy era when slavery and tyranny shall no more be known throughout the world, from the rivers to the end of the earth? I cannot claim that, in the share I have had in the deliberations and the legislation of this House, as a member and an officer, I have always done that which was wisest and best, in word and act ; for none of us are infallible. But that I have striven to perform, faithfully, every duty, and that, devoted as all know, to principles that I have deemed correct, the honor and glory of our country have always been paramount and above all party ties, I can conscientiously assert. And that I have sought to mitigate, rather than to intensify, the asperities which the collision of opposing parties so often evoke, must be left to my fellow-members to verify. In the responsible duties of the last six years, I have endeavored to administer the rules you have enacted for your guidance both in letter and in spirit, with an impartiality uninfluenced by political associations or antagonisms. And I may be pardoned for the expression of gratification that, while no decision has been reversed, there has been no appeal, sometimes taken as they are by a minority as a protest against

the power under the rules of a majority, which has ever been decided by a strict party vote. If, in the quickness with which a presiding officer here is often compelled to rule hour after hour on parliamentary points, and in the performance of his duty, to protect all members in their rights to advance the progress of the public business, and to preserve order, any word has fallen from my lips that has justly wounded any one, I desire to withdraw it unreservedly. I leave this hall with no feeling of unkindness to any member with whom I have been associated in all the years of the past, having earnestly tried to practice that lesson of life which commands us to write our enmities on the sand, but to engrave our friendships on the granite. But the last word cannot longer be delayed. I bid farewell to the faithful and confiding constituency whose affectionate regard has sustained and encompassed me through all the years of my public life ; farewell to the hall which in its excitements and restless activities so often seemed to represent the throbbings and the intense feelings of the nation's heart ; and finally, fellow-members and friends, with sincere gratitude for the generous support you have always given me in the different and often complex duties of the chair, and with the

warmest wishes for your health, happiness and prosperity, one and all, I bid you farewell."

This address was greeted with warm applause from the members on the floor, and from the vast audience in the galleries. At its conclusion Mr. Colfax retired to the floor of the House. Mr. Woodward, of Pennsylvania, one of the leaders of the Democratic party, immediately arose, and offered the following resolution, which was warmly endorsed by the political opponents of the Vice-President elect, as well as by his friends.

"Resolved, That the retirement of the Hon. Schuyler Colfax from the Speaker's chair, after a long and faithful discharge of its duties, is an event in our current history which would cause general regret were it not that the country is to have the benefit of his matured talents and experience in the higher sphere of duty to which he has been called by a majority of his countrymen. In parting from our distinguished Speaker, the House records with becoming sensibility its high appreciation of his skill in parliamentary law, of his promptness of administering the rules and facilitating the business of the body ; of his urbane manners, and of the dignity and impartiality with which he has presided over the delib-

erations of the House. He will carry with him into his new field of duty and throughout life the kind regards of every member of this Congress."

The resolution was put to the vote, and carried unanimously. An engrossed copy of it, to be signed by the officers of the House, was ordered to be communicated to Mr. Colfax.

On the morning of the 4th of March, Mr. Colfax entered the Senate Chamber, which was filled to overflowing with a brilliant and distinguished throng, and in the presence of this audience, took the oath of office at the hands of acting Vice-President Wade, and entered upon his new duties. He delivered the following brief address upon this occasion :

"SENATORS : In entering upon the duties in this chamber, to the performance of which I have been called by the people of the United States, I realize fully the delicacy as well as the responsibilities of the position. Presiding over a body whose members are in so large a degree my seniors in age, and not chosen by the body itself, I shall certainly need the assistance of your support and your generous forbearance and confidence. But, pledging to you all a faithful and

inflexible impartiality in the administration of your rules, and earnestly desiring to co operate with you in making the deliberations of the Senate worthy not only of its historical renown, but also of the States whose commissions you hold. I am now ready to take the oath of office required by law."

Mr. Colfax is still in his forty-sixth year, and is in the full vigor of his manhood. He is a man of fine attainments and considerable eloquence. He is about five feet six inches high, and is inclined to be stout. His brown hair is beginning to show silver streaks—the marks of care and intellectual exertion. He has an amiable, pleasant face, the expression of which indicates considerable firmness of character. He is quick and energetic in his movements, and an untiring worker. He is rarely idle, his time being devoted almost entirely to public business. He is polite and kind to all, and deservedly popular with all classes.

He is a fit associate in the Government of this great country, for the man upon whom the nation has conferred the highest office in its gift.

JAMES G. BLAINE,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

JAMES GILLESPIE BLAINE, was born in Washington County, Pennsylvania, in 1830, and is consequently less than thirty-nine years old. He received a fair education in the common schools of his native county, and at the age of seventeen graduated at Washington College, one of the finest institutions of Western Pennsylvania.

Soon after graduating he removed to the State of Maine, and entered upon the profession of a journalist. He labored faithfully to win distinction in the field upon which he had entered, and, in the course of a few years, became the editor of the *Kennebec Journal*, which post he held for several years. He then became the editor of the *Portland Advertiser*, in which position he continued four or five years. He was a thorough master of his profession, an able and accom-

plished writer, and won a high reputation by the skillful manner in which he conducted these influential journals.

The position of editor of a first class newspaper being one which requires considerable political ability, and an intimate knowledge of parties and party measures, as well as of the history and general wants of the Union, is usually in this country made the stepping-stone to higher positions in public life. That no better school could be had is shown by the number of able and accomplished men which the press has contributed to the service of the Republic.

Mr. Blaine followed the general rule, and stepped from his editorial chair to a seat in the lower house of the Legislature of Maine. He served in the Assembly four years, exhibiting high qualities as a statesman, and winning a fine reputation. At the commencement of his third year in that body, he was elected Speaker of the lower House, by a handsome majority, and held this position for two years.

He identified himself with the Republican party at the outset, and rendered good service in its

behalf both with his pen and by his eloquent and stirring addresses. When the Rebellion broke out, he was one of the first to urge upon the Government a firm and vigorous policy in dealing with the revolted States, and exerted himself actively to promote volunteering in his own State.

In 1862 he was elected to the Congress of the United States as an administration candidate, and at once took a prominent rank in the House as one of the best men in the Republican party. He gave a vigorous support to the members of the Government for the prosecution of the War, and repeatedly urged upon his constituents at home the duty of putting away for the time all side issues, and giving their cordial co-operation to the great task of restoring the Union.

In 1864 he was reelected to Congress, and again in 1866, and in 1868. He took a prominent part in the Reconstruction measures of Congress, and was the author of the provision which offered to any State of the South a full restoration to its former rights and privileges upon the

ratification by it of the Constitutional Amendment.

During the Presidential campaign of 1868, he was particularly active in behalf of the nominations of his party, speaking often and eloquently, and using every means in his power to bring about the triumph of the Republican ticket. His labors were crowned with success, and he had the satisfaction of seeing his State carried for Grant and Colfax by a majority of over twenty-eight thousand. At the same time he was re-elected to his seat in Congress by three thousand three hundred and forty-six majority.

The brilliant reputation won by Mr. Blaine during the six years of his connection with the House, marked him as the most fitting successor of Mr. Colfax in the Speakership, and early in the last Session of the Fortieth Congress, his friends began to advocate his claims. Mr. Dawes, of Massachusetts, was also mentioned for the same position, and for a while the votes of the Republican members were divided between these two gentlemen, either of whom was eminently qualified for the post. Towards the close of the ses-

sion, however, Mr. Dawes withdrew in favor of Mr. Blaine, and that gentleman soon after received the Republican nomination in Caucus.

Of course this nomination was really equivalent to an election, for the Republican party held the power in their own hands ; but on the morning of the fourth of March a formal election for Speaker was held at the opening of the Forty-first Congress. Mr. Washburne, of Illinois, nominated Mr. Blaine, as the candidate of the Republican party, and Mr. Randall, of Pennsylvania, nominated Mr. Kerr, of Indiana, as the choice of the Democratic members of the House. The roll was called, and with the following result : Mr. Blaine received one hundred and thirty-six votes, and Mr. Kerr fifty-seven votes. The Clerk thereupon declared Mr. Blaine elected Speaker of the House of Representatives for the Forty-first Congress. He was then conducted to the Chair, and the business of the House began.

HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State.

HAMILTON FISH is a member of one of the oldest and most honored families of the Empire State. He was born in the City of New York in 1809, and is consequently about sixty years old at present.

His father was Lieutenant-Colonel Nicholas Fish, who served gallantly through the War of the Revolution, and was an intimate friend of Washington and Alexander Hamilton, after the latter of whom the subject of this sketch was named. He married Elizabeth Stuyvesant, the daughter of Petrus Stuyvesant, the heir and a lenial descendant of the famous Dutch Governor of that name. Fort Fish, one of the defences built by the Americans during the Revolution, on that part of the island now included in the Central Park, was named after him. He lived

a short distance out of the city, and his residence, in which the present Secretary of State was born, is still standing. It is now located on Stuyvesant street.

Young Fish was educated at the best schools in the city, and passed through Columbia college with distinction, graduating at that institution with high honors. He studied law, after leaving college, and in 1830 was admitted to the bar in his native city. He did not practice his profession long, however, as the management of the large estate which he inherited from his father occupied the greater part of his time and attention, and finally induced him to relinquish his practice altogether. Being very wealthy, and having no occasion to work for a livelihood, Mr. Fish devoted himself to the task of improving his natural gifts by reading and study.

In politics he was a Whig of the most ardent school, but for some years took no active part in public affairs. In 1834, however, he made his first appearance in politics as a candidate on the Whig ticket for the Assembly. He entered into

the contest with spirit, but was defeated, with his associates.

In 1842 he was nominated by the Whigs as their candidate for Representative in Congress from the Sixth District, which was then comprised of the Eleventh, Twelfth, Fifteenth, Sixteenth, and Seventh Wards of the City of New York. This district was strongly Democratic, and in 1840 had been carried for Martin Van Buren by nearly one thousand majority, and it seemed absurd for the Whigs to hope to carry it. Nothing dismayed, however, they entered warmly into the contest, which was heated and exciting, and succeeded in electing Mr. Fish by 205 majority, the vote standing as follows: Fish (Whig) 5,904, McKean (Democrat) 5,699.

Mr. Fish won a fine reputation in Congress as an earnest and forcible speaker, and a man of solid and practical attainments. He made many friends, and succeeded in establishing a foundation upon which his friends hoped to see him build a fame worthy of the race from which he came—an expectation which has not been disappointed

In 1844, in spite of the good name he had won in Congress, and the services he had rendered his party, the Whigs of his district ignored his claims for a re-nomination, and selected Mr. William W. Campbell, the Know Nothing, or Native American Candidate, for their suffrages. In consequence of this desertion Mr. Fish was urged by his friends to enter the contest as an Independent candidate. He did so, but was defeated by a very large majority.

For the next two years he took no active part in politics, but remained a keen and intelligent observer of the events transpiring in the country. In 1846 he was nominated by his party for the post of Lieutenant-Governor of the State. He was badly beaten in this contest, running heavily behind his ticket, in spite of the fact that the Whig candidate for Governor was elected by a majority of over eleven thousand. He was not disheartened by this failure, however, but in 1847, was again a candidate for the same office—a vacancy having been created in it by the resignation of Lieutenant-Governor Gardiner. This

time he was successful, and was elected by a majority of 30,000.

In 1848 he was the candidate of the Whigs for Governor of New York, and after a warm and memorable contest was elected. The reader will remember that the Presidential election occurred at the same time, and the fight in the State was upon both local and national issues. The Democratic party in New York had been split into two wings or factions, one of which put forth Reuben H. Walworth as its candidate for the Governor, and the other John A. Dix. This split in the ranks of the Democracy enabled the Whigs to carry the State for General Taylor, and also to elect Mr. Fish, Governor. Mr. Fish's administration was eminently successful, and established the fame of which he had laid the foundation in the lower House of Congress.

In 1857 he was chosen United States Senator by the Legislature of New York, and served his full term in the Senate. He was closely identified with all the prominent measures of his party, and was an ardent advocate of the old Whig doctrine of protection to American industry.

He retired at the close of his term, leaving behind him a fine reputation, and many friends, who had been drawn to him by his high qualities of head and heart.

After leaving the Senate, Governor Fish retired to private life, declining to take any further active share in politics. He was satisfied with the part he had already played, and was anxious to devote the remainder of his life to his private affairs. He travelled extensively in various parts of the world, and was a careful and thoughtful observer of the political systems and people of the old world. He also devoted much time to travelling through the United States, and observing the growth and prosperity of the various parts of the country, and informing himself in all things relating to them. He has been a close student all his life, and has acquired a vast fund of knowledge, which, added to his great experience, has made him one of the most cultivated and best informed men of the country.

When the Republican party was organized, Governor Fish became one of its supporters. Since then he has generally voted with it, though

he has sometimes cast his ballot for a Democrat. He has never been a partisan, but has set his countrymen the good example of exercising his right of suffrage thoughtfully and conscientiously, voting with his party only when its candidates and measures were such as to meet with the approval of his judgment. It would be well for the Republic if his independence of thought and action were more generally shared by his countrymen of all parties. He possesses a calm and evenly-balanced judgment, which is not apt to lead him astray in public affairs, and has always been regarded as one of the most thoroughly conscientious statesmen in the land.

Governor Fish has generally sympathized with the Republican party in its aims, and has endorsed the greater part of its measures. He has been eminently conservative, however, and has discouraged rather than promoted party violence. He gave a warm and active support to the measures of the Administration during the war, and all measures calculated to bring about a peaceful end of the struggle found him a ready and generous advocate. During the quarrel between the

Congress and President Johnson, he sympathized with the former, but set a good example in refraining from any attack on the latter. His experience taught him the folly and danger of the bitter course indulged in by the partisans of Congress, that they could not succeed in their efforts to degrade the man without dragging the office in the mud, and weakening much of its moral force. He was a member of the "Stewart Committee," of New York city, and engaged heartily in the efforts to secure the election of General Grant, for whom he had long since conceived a high admiration and sincere friendship.

During the recent speculations as to the probable cabinet ministers of President Grant, public opinion was prompt to assign him a position in that august body, both by reason of his eminent fitness for some such office, and the friendship existing between Grant and himself. It was generally believed that he would be made Secretary of the Treasury, but in view of the many questions at issue between the United States and foreign powers, there can be no doubt that he has been assigned the post for which he is best

suited, and in which the country can be most benefited by his acknowledged abilities.

Governor Fish is a man of great wealth, and of irreproachable character. His large experience of American politics, and his intimate knowledge of the affairs of the leading Powers of the Old World, make him a fitting head for the State Department.

At present, he is the President of the Board of Trustees of Columbia College, one of the Trustees of the Astor Library, Vice-President of the consolidated railroads from New York to Philadelphia, and holds other prominent positions of honor and trust.

In a recent issue, the *New York World*, thus sums up his character—an estimate all the more complimentary to him since it is the frank tribute of a political opponent :

“Hamilton Fish, the Secretary of State, may not be a very great, or a very brilliant statesman ; but he is, beyond all controversy, one of the most estimable, most judicious, most upright, and most respected citizens of this State or of this country. A gentleman who has enjoyed the advantages of hereditary wealth ; of superior cul-

ture ; in the full vigor of ripe faculties ; of varied official experience ; great social consideration ; an example of all private virtues,—he has long possessed, what is better than the fame of a great statesman, in a life so unblemished, a deportment so quiet and unostentatious, a weight and credit in the management of educational, religious, and charitable institutions which so commend him to general esteem, as to place him by universal consent in the very first rank of good citizens, Christian gentlemen, and exemplars of the kindly domestic virtues. Returning to public life with a character which disarms criticism and extorts the respectful homage of those who differ from him in politics, and with an exhaustless fund of good will to draw upon, he is secure of more indulgence than he is ever likely to need in a position which he has not sought, and for which he possesses some qualifications of a very high order.

“ First in the list of these, we unhesitatingly place the moral elevation which lifts him above the danger of that mental distortion which would seek, or submit to, anything but justice in our transactions with foreign nations. There will be no over-reaching diplomacy or crooked politics in Mr. Fish’s management of our foreign affairs ;

and the spirit of candor and justice which he will bring into all his duties will probably save him from embarrassing entanglements requiring any cunning and dexterity to untie. He has never displayed any surprising fetches of ingenuity, because a man of his character never has any occasion for them ; nor will the nation have any occasion for them, if he is permitted to have his own way in the management of our foreign intercourse. Next in the list of Mr. Fish's qualifications, we should place a singular soundness and rectitude of judgment, and long-established habits of caution and circumspection. Probably there could not be a safer adviser, except in emergencies requiring great boldness ; a kind of emergencies not likely to arise in time of peace. Mr. Fish is perfectly familiar with the contemporary history and the merits, pro and con, of the chief public questions both of our own and of the chief foreign countries ; and among the minor but necessary qualifications for his new office, he has a fluent command of the French and one or two other Continental tongues. For the social duties of a position in which social influence counts for so much, no man is better qualified than Mr. Fish.

“ We regret that what we have further to say of the new Secretary of State cannot be in the

same strain of unmingled commendation. In national politics Mr. Fish is a Republican, though a Republican of that moderate class who march in the rear instead of advancing with the front. He is by conviction a Federalist; a believer in a strong central government; but his Federalism is somewhat tempered by the pride which he has always felt in the State of New York. In former times, he was a Whig and was among the last to give up the Whig party; and though he has never quite sympathized with the Republican party, he has pretty uniformly supported its leading measures, although, when he first acted with it, opposition to the extension of slavery was his only point of agreement. We fear he has never had much liking for the Democratic party;—but in State and city affairs he has sometimes, of late years, voted for Democratic candidates who commanded his confidence. Since we must have a Republican at the head of the Cabinet, we can think of no one competent for the place whose politics are less objectionable than those of Mr. Fish.”

JOHN A. RAWLINS,
Secretary of War.

JOHN A. RAWLINS was born in Joe Davies County, Illinois, on the 13th of February, 1831. His parents were in moderate circumstances, and were able to give him but a plain education. For a little over two winters he attended a common school in the neighborhood of his father's farm, and afterwards passed eight months at the Rock River Seminary, at Mount Morris, Illinois. The remainder of his time, from the period at which he became old enough to labor, until the year 1854, was spent in working on the farm and burning charcoal.

In November 1854, he entered the office of Mr. J. P. Stevens, of Galena, Illinois, and began the study of law. He prosecuted his studies with energy and determination, and in October 1855 was admitted to the bar. His legal instructor

having formed a friendship for him, offered him a partnership in his practice, which he at once accepted, and the firm thus inaugurated continued to labor successfully until August 1856, when it was dissolved by mutual consent, Mr. Rawlins retaining and carrying on the practice. In September 1858, he associated with him in business David Sheehan Esq., with whom he continued to practice his profession until the beginning of the War.

Mr. Rawlins entered actively into the political questions of the day. He was an ardent Democrat of the Douglas school, and was the Douglas-Democratic Candidate for Presidential elector from the First Illinois district in the Presidential election of 1860. He canvassed his district with his Republican opponent, Judge Allen C. Fuller, in this Campaign, and won much credit by his ability as a speaker and politician.

Being conservative in his views, Mr. Rawlins exerted himself earnestly to bring about a peaceful solution of our national troubles. He was willing to concede much to the Southern States for the sake of the Union, and was so earnest in

his efforts to promote a peaceful settlement of the questions at issue, that he laid himself open to severe denunciations by the Republicans of his State, as a sympathizer with treason. They were soon to see, however, that they had done him gross injustice. His patriotism was of no half-way kind. He wished to exhaust every peaceful measure before subjecting the country to the terrible scourge of War, and he had the moral courage to face these denunciations.

When the news of the attack upon Fort Sumter reached Galena, a meeting of the Republican adherents of the Administration and the War Democrats was called, to devise measures for aiding the Government in the hour of its extremity. Mr. U. S. Grant, then a simple citizen of the town, presided at this meeting, and Mr. Rawlins was amongst the speakers. He (Rawlins,) took strong ground in favor of coercive measures on the part of the Government, for the purpose of putting down the Rebellion. He declared it no time to stop to consider minor issues. The very existence of the country was at stake, and it was every man's duty to stand by the Union, and to

support the Government in whatever measures might be found necessary for the accomplishment of the great end in view. He spoke eloquently and forcibly. His hearers were not only delighted by his declarations, but were also profoundly astonished. They could scarcely believe that this orator whose patriotic appeals now thrilled them so warmly, was the man they had so recently been denouncing as a traitor and rebel sympathizer.

Mr. Rawlins' speech was the great event of the day, and his bold announcement of his support of the War had great influence in procuring recruits from the Democratic party. No one seemed to think anything of the plain, reticent man who presided over the meeting. He had never been in public life, and his support meant nothing more than one additional volunteer for the army.

How matters have changed since then! The plain, reticent, unimportant chairman of that War meeting, has carved out a record in history which will live as long as the world endures, and the eloquent orator whose adhesion to his country's cause was the occasion of so much rejoicing at

that meeting, has risen only to adorn the State which his friend and chief has won for both.

Having decided on his course, Mr. Rawlins not only gave his whole sympathy to the Union in its hour of trial, but also endeavored to induce others to do likewise. As soon as he heard of the defeat of our arms at Bull Run, he began, in conjunction with John E. Smith, afterwards Brevet Major-General of Volunteers, and J. A. Maltby, afterwards Brigadier-General of Volunteers, to raise a regiment of troops for the war. While he was engaged in this undertaking, his friend and former client, Grant, who had been made a Brigadier-General of Volunteers, offered him a position on his staff, as Assistant Adjutant-General, and procured for him the rank of Captain. Rawlins accepted the appointment, but before he could join his commander was called upon to perform the saddest duty of his life.

In June 1856, he had married Miss Emily Smith, of Goshen, New York, who had borne him three children. Her health had been feeble for a year or two, however, and at the time of his appointment to the staff of Grant, she was ill

at her father's home. Mr. Rawlins at once repaired to Goshen, to make arrangements for her comfort during his absence in the army, and while he was with her she sank rapidly, and died on the 30th of August. Making arrangements for the proper care of his three children, Mr. Rawlins, feeling that it was no time to allow private grief to conflict with one's duty, set out for the army, and on the 15th of September reported to General Grant at Cairo, Illinois. He was at once given the post of Assistant Adjutant-General, with the rank of Captain. From that time until the present he has continued on the staff of General Grant, where he has rendered valuable aid to his commander, and taking part in all his campaigns. In the spring of 1862, he was commissioned Major, and Assistant Adjutant-General, to date from the surrender of Fort Donelson ; on the 1st of November, 1862, he was promoted to the grade of Lieutenant-Colonel, and was made Assistant Adjutant-General and Chief of Staff, and the next year was made Brigadier-General of Volunteers, to date from August 11th, 1863. On the 24th of February, 1865, he was

made a Brevet Major-General of Volunteers ; on the 3d of March, 1865, was made Brigadier-General in the regular army, and Chief of Staff to the Lieutenant-General, and now holds the brevet rank of Major-General in the regular army, and was, until his present appointment, Chief of Staff to the General-in-Chief.

Since their connection began, the relations existing between Generals Grant and Rawlins have been of the most intimate and confidential character. The general's opinion of his chief of staff may be seen from the following letters urging his various promotions :

“ HEADQUARTERS DEPT. OF THE TENNESSEE, }
VICKSBURG, MISS., *July 27, 1863.* }

“ BRIGADIER-GENERAL S. THOMAS, *Adjutant-General of the Army.*

“ GENERAL—I would respectfully recommend for gallant and meritorious services, and for extreme fitness for command corresponding to the increased rank, the following promotions, to wit : Brigadier-General Greenville M. Dodge, Brigadier-General Alvin P. Hovey, Brigadier-General John E. Smith, Brigadier-General W. S. Smith, to be major-generals of volunteers ; and Colonel

Charles R. Wood, Seventy-sixth Ohio ; Colonel Alexander Chambers, Sixteenth Iowa ; Lieutenant-Colonel John A. Rawlins, assistant adjutant-general ; Colonel Giles A. Smith, Eighth Missouri ; Colonel John M. Corse, Sixth Iowa ; Colonel John B. Sanborn, Fourth Minnesota ; Colonel W. Q. Gresham, Fifty-third Indiana ; Colonel M. F. Force, Twentieth Ohio ; Colonel T. Kirby Smith, Fifty-fourth Ohio, to be brigadier-generals of volunteers. These officers have all rendered valuable services in the field, and will fill the place for which they are recommended well.

“ Lieutenant-Colonel John A. Rawlins has been my assistant adjutant-general from the beginning of the rebellion. No officer has now a more honorable reputation than he has ; and I think I can safely say that he would make a good corps commander. This promotion I would particularly ask as a reward of merit.

“ I am, general

“ Very respectfully,

“ Your obedient servant,

(Signed)

U. S. GRANT, Major-General.

“ WASHINGTON, D. C., }
April 4, 1864. }

“ HON. H. WILSON, *Chairman Com. Military Affairs* :

“ SIR—I would most respectfully, but earnestly, ask for the confirmation of Brigadier-General John A. Rawlins by your honorable body. General Rawlins has served with me from the beginning of the rebellion. I know he has most richly earned his present position. He comes the nearest being indispensable to me of any officer in the service. But if his confirmation is dependent on his commanding troops, he shall command troops at once. There is no department commander near where he has served, that would not most gladly give him the very largest and most responsible command his rank would entitle him to.

“ Believing a short letter on this subject more acceptable than a long one, I will only add, that it is my earnest desire that General Rawlins should be confirmed : that if he fails, besides the loss it will be to the service and to me personally, I shall feel, that by keeping with me a valuable officer, because he made himself valuable, I have worked him an injury.

“ With great respect, your obedient servant,

“ (Signed)

“ U. S. GRANT,

“ Lieutenant-General U. S. A.”

“HEADQUARTERS ARMIES OF THE
UNITED STATES, CITY POINT, VA.,
February 23, 1865. }

“DEAR WASHBURNE—Inclosed I send you a letter just received from Colonel Duff, late of my staff. I should be delighted if an act should pass Congress giving the commander of the army a chief of staff with the rank of a brigadier-general in the regular army. It is necessary to have such an officer, and I see no reason why the law should not give it. It would also reward an officer who has won more deserved reputation in this war than any other who has acted throughout purely as a staff-officer.

“I write to you instead of Duff, knowing your present friendship for Rawlins as well as myself, and because you are in a place to help the thing along, if you think well of it.

“ (Signed)

“ U. S. GRANT,

“ Lieutenant-General U. S. A.”

It was well understood when Grant came into power as President, that General Rawlins would be made Secretary of War. His nomination would doubtless have been sent to the Senate on the 5th of March, had not his health been too

delicate to permit him to enter upon the duties of the office just then. He has been so long and so intimately associated with General Grant, that the latter naturally desires to have the benefit of his advice and experience until the last moment.

General Rawlins brings to the discharge of his new duties a vast amount of experience and knowledge of the military affairs, gained by him in the responsible position of Chief-of-Staff to the General of the Army. He possesses the perfect confidence of the President, and will receive the hearty and entire support of the latter in his administration. It is confidently expected that he will continue the beneficent measures of reform begun in his department by Grant himself during his *ad interim* Secretaryship; and that he will make a clear-headed, practical and business-like chief of the branch of the Government which has been committed to his charge.

JACOB D. COX,

Secretary of the Interior.

JACOB DOLSON COX was born in Montreal, Canada, on the 27th of October, 1828. His father was a citizen of New-York and a master builder by trade. He had undertaken the contract for the carpenter work in the Church of Notre Dame, in Montreal, and was in that city superintending the work when the subject of this sketch was born. The next year he returned to New York, where the childhood and youth of his son were passed. In 1846 he removed to Ohio. In 1851 young Cox graduated at Oberlin College, the great centre of Western Abolitionism. In 1852 he began the practice of law in the village of Warren, and about this time married the daughter of the President of the College, at which he had been educated.

Soon after this he took his first steps in politics, identifying himself with the Republicans of the

most ultra school, and in 1859 was elected to the Ohio Senate from the Trumbull and Mahoning district. He at once took a commanding position in that body, and it soon came to be understood that he shared with the present General Garfield the honors of the leadership of the Legislature.

He was still a member of the Senate when the fall of Fort Sumter occasioned the first call to arms in behalf of the Union. Appreciating the magnitude of the occasion, he threw aside all other matters, and devoted himself to the task of filling the quota of troops demanded of Ohio. On the 23d of April, 1861, Governor Dennison commissioned him a Brigadier General of Ohio volunteers, and assigned him to duty with General McClellan, who at once set him to work, examining the State Arsenal, and collecting and organizing volunteers at Camp Jackson. Soon after this he was put in charge of Camp Dennison. Upon the re-enlistment of his troops for three years, he was appointed, by President Lincoln, a Brigadier General of Volunteers, to rank from May 15th, 1861. In July, of the same year,

he was placed in command of the Kanawha Valley, in Western Virginia. His force consisted of a brigade of infantry, a troop of horse, and a battery of artillery. He was ordered by General McClellan to advance towards Charleston and Gauley Bridge, and occupy those places. His advance was checked, however, by the enemy under Brigadier-General Henry A. Wise, at Scary Creek. In this skirmish Cox's vanguard was worsted. By a bold manœuvre, he turned the position of the Southern army, and forced Wise back beyond the Gauley, capturing one field piece, sixteen hundred small arms, and a number of prisoners.

Wise was now re-inforced by Floyd, who assumed the command, and moved again towards the Ohio. Cox's force being inferior to that opposed to him, he was compelled to retire, which he did, warmly contesting the ground over which he passed. During the summer and fall the enemy succeeded several times in reaching the Kanawha, but were never able to gain a permanent foothold there. Near the close of the fall, General Cox was re-inforced by McCook's brigade,

and with this assistance he compelled the enemy to retreat as far as the Sewell Mountain. Rosecrans now joined him with re-inforcements, and took personal command of the army, but as the season was too far advanced for active operations, nothing of a definite nature was accomplished during the winter.

In the Spring of 1862, General Fremont, who had superseded Rosecrans in the command of the Mountain Department, under a combined movement against the Virginia and Tennessee railroad and South Western Virginia, from which the enemy drew a large part of their supplies. By this plan, the first column, under his immediate command, was to move against Lynchburg from Beverley, and at the same time General Cox's column was to advance from the Kanawha, and occupy Newbern, on the Virginia and Tennessee railroad. The two columns moved off at the appointed time, early in May, and Cox's command had gotten as far as Parisburg, when the whole plan was suddenly and unexpectedly destroyed by Jackson's victories over Banks in the Shenandoah Valley. These reverses to our arms com-

pelled Fremont to march at once to Banks's assistance, which he did promptly. He immediately informed General Cox that he must use his own discretion in meeting the superior force of the enemy which was now left free to concentrate against him. Cox fell back towards Lewsburg, foiling several energetic efforts of the enemy to intercept him, and intrenched himself in a strong position at Flat Top Mountain, which he held for several months.

About the middle of August, 1862, General Cox was ordered to reinforce General Pope's army on the Potomac, with half of his force, and obtained permission from the War Department to accompany the division in person. He at once marched to the head of navigation on the Kanawha, while his troops were placed on steamers and conveyed to Parkersburg, and transported thence to Washington by rail. A part of his force, under Colonel Crook, was hurried forward to Pope at Warrenton Junction, but the remainder was cut off by the movements of the enemy. General McClellan, to whom General Cox was now directed to report, ordered him to occupy

the works on Upton's Hill, near Falls Church, which were regarded as the key to the defences of Alexandria. He held these works until Pope's defeated army was safe inside of them. The two regiments of Crook's brigade were now reunited with the division.

During the march through Maryland against Lee, General Cox commanded his division, which led the advance of the right wing of the Army of the Potomac to South Mountain. He secured the Monocacy bridge and entered Frederick, driving off Stuart's cavalry which had been left by Lee to watch General McClellan. On the 14th of September, he opened the attack upon the enemy at South Mountain, and participated in the hottest fighting of the day. When General Reno was killed early in the fight, the command of the corps passed to General Cox, who handled it in such a manner as to elicit the praise of McClellan and Burnside. He continued in command of the Ninth Corps during the battle of Antietam, and bore a conspicuous part in Burnside's famous passage of the Stone Bridge.

Generals McClellan and Burnside now urged

the President to bestow upon the gallant commander of the "Kanawha division" a commission as Major-General of Volunteers, which request was complied with, the commission dating from the 7th of October, 1862.

Soon after this he was ordered to West Virginia, and placed in command of that State. The Federal troops had just been driven back from the Kanawha by the enemy, and Cox at once applied himself to the task of remedying the disaster. By a series of skilful manœuvres, he defeated the enemy in several encounters, drove them back beyond the Alleghanies, and re-established his old lines at Flat Top. After this success, West Virginia was comparatively undisturbed by the Confederates.

"The list of promotions sent in to the Senate at that session of Congress, was held to be in excess of the number allowed by law, and the whole list was returned to the President with the request that he reduce it about one half, to bring it within the limit fixed by statute. General Cox with many others, lost his grade at that time by no demerit of his own, but solely owing

to a misunderstanding between the President and Senate as to the number the former was authorized to appoint."

In the spring of 1863, upon the re-organization of the Military Departments, General Cox was ordered to report to General Burnside, who put him in command of the District of Ohio, with his headquarters at Cincinnati. He held this command until December, when, at his own request, he was ordered to the field, and sent to East Tennessee. He reached Knoxville just after the relief of that place by Sherman, and, being the senior officer present, was given the command of the Twenty-third Army Corps. When General Schofield was given the Department, General Cox acted for a while as his Chief of Staff, and then took command of the Third Division of the Twenty-third Corps, which he led gallantly through Sherman's campaign against Atlanta.

The Army of the Ohio mustered thirteen thousand five hundred and fifty-nine men and twenty-eight guns at the opening of the campaign. It was as fine a body of troops as ever took the

field, and General Cox was now to have a better opportunity than he had yet enjoyed to show himself worthy of such high trust.

On the 9th of May, 1864, the Army of the Ohio broke up its camp and marched towards Dalton to support the movement of General Thomas, while McPherson made his flank movement upon Resaca. On the 14th of May, it took part in the desperate battle of Resaca, holding the extreme left of our line. In the turning movement by which the Allatoona Pass was flanked, Cox again held our left. At Kenesaw Mountain his troops took part in the gallant but unsuccessful attack on the enemy's works. When it was determined to cross the Chattahoochee, and force Johnston back to Atlanta, General Sherman ordered General Schofield to move his army to the river near the mouth of Soap's Creek, and effect a lodgement on the east bank. This movement was successfully accomplished on the 7th of July, Cox's division completely surprised the guard at the crossing, laid a good pontoon and a trestle bridge, took up a position on the east bank on high ground, and secured several

good roads leading to Atlanta. The movement was marked by a promptness and skill which drew forth the highest praise from General Sherman. Indeed, throughout the whole campaign Schofield had been noted especially for the promptness and precision which characterized his operations, and in these movements he was ably sustained by Gen. Cox. In the fierce battle of the 22d of July, in which McPherson fell, Schofield was ordered to support the Fifteenth Corps in its attempt to regain its lost ground. It is almost superfluous to say that the order was obeyed, and the enemy driven back with terrible loss. In the masterly movement by which the army was swung around Hood and planted upon the Macon Railway, and which compelled the evacuation of Atlanta, Cox assisted in the task, covering the movement of the rest of the army, which he performed with his usual skill. Gen'l. Schofield was temporarily absent from the army during the pursuit of Hood into Alabama, and General Cox commanded the Twenty-third Corps in person throughout these movements.

Sherman now decided to abandon the pursuit

of Hood, and enter upon his march to the sea. He had already sent General Thomas to Nashville, to collect troops to oppose Hood's progress northwards ; but it was necessary before returning to Atlanta, to leave a force immediately in Hood's front, in order to meet whatever movements the Rebel commander might determine upon. For this purpose Sherman detached from his own army the Fourth and Twenty-third corps, Hatch's division, and Croxton's and Capron's brigades of cavalry, and conferred the command of these troops upon General Schofield, who being in charge of the whole movement confided the command of the Twenty-third Corps to General Cox, to whose skill and energy he knew he could trust the execution of the difficult and dangerous task.

With the force thus placed at his command, Schofield was to follow Hood, and attack him if he should attempt to interfere with Sherman's march, and in case he should move northward, to impede his progress as much as possible, and aim all the time he could for General Thomas at Nashville, under whose orders the whole Federal

force in Tennessee and Alabama was placed. Hood's army lay at Florence, Alabama, and Schofield's at Pulaski, Tennessee. Our force being numerically weaker than that of the enemy, Schofield wisely determined to act upon the defensive as far as possible.

On the 19th of November, Hood's army crossed the Tennessee, and marched northward. Schofield had already taken the precaution to remove all the public property from the places exposed to the enemy, and on the 23d commenced to withdraw the garrisons from Athens, Decatur, and Huntsville, Alabama, sending them towards Murfreesboro, Tennessee, and on the same night fell back from Pulaski, with his army, to Columbia, which he reached on the 24th. The enemy followed him close, and during the 24th and 25th skirmished heavily with Cox's Corps. On the 26th Hood brought up strong bodies of infantry, and during that day and the 27th made such threatening demonstrations that Cox, on the night of the 27th, withdrew across Duck river.

Dispositions were made to hold the crossings of the river against the enemy, but on the after-

noon of the 29th Hood succeeded in forcing a passage of the stream, and, moving forward rapidly, threatened our line of retreat to Franklin.

As soon as it was dark Cox withdrew from his position on the river, and set out for Franklin. Both armies were now marching for that place, each striving to reach it in advance of the other. To our army it was a matter of life and death to enter the town before the enemy, for in doing so they would secure a safe passage of the Harpeth River, and ensure our junction with General Thomas at Nashville; but should Hood reach the town first he would hold the crossings against us, and cut us off from Nashville, and in such an extremity it was almost a certainty that our whole force would fall into his hands. Both sides strained every nerve, the troops literally racing over the frozen roads. Fortune favored us, and awarded to Gen. Cox the success he had so nobly won. That night the army marched twenty-five miles, and entered Franklin at day-break on the 30th. Cox had now secured the safe passage of his army across Harpeth river, and Schofield hurrying his trains

over, sent them as fast as possible towards Nashville.

The enemy had followed close upon us in the retreat from Columbia, and had repeatedly made sharp attacks upon our rear guard, and they were now so close at hand that it became necessary to halt and give battle to cover the withdrawal of the trains. Accordingly, as soon as Franklin was reached, the army was put in position on the South side of the town, where a line of intrenchments was hastily thrown up, covering the bridges over the river. This had scarcely been accomplished when the enemy appeared in front of our works, and at once began a determined attack upon them. During the day Hood made repeated and desperate assaults, and the battle raged furiously until ten o'clock at night, the enemy failing to make any impression upon our line. The enemy never fought better than at Franklin, and the victory was the result of the splendid fighting of Schofield's troops. Our loss was two thousand three hundred and twenty-six killed, wounded and missing, of which four were missing. The losses of the Confederates were frightful. Their

killed and wounded amounted to five thousand five hundred and fifty, and in addition to this seven hundred and two prisoners fell into our hands, making their total loss six thousand two hundred and fifty-two. They lost six general officers killed, six wounded, and one captured. Their ablest general, Patrick Cleburne, was killed.

General Thomas was unwilling that Schofield should risk a renewal of the battle next day, and as our trains were safely on their way to Nashville, and the object of the battle accomplished, he directed General Schofield to withdraw across the Harpeth, and fall back to Nashville. That retreat began that night, and on the afternoon of the next day, December 1st, our army was in position at Nashville. Gen. Schofield now resumed the command of the Corps, and Cox returned to his division.

During the siege of Nashville, General Cox, in accordance with the earnest request of Generals Sherman and Schofield, made soon after the fall of Atlanta; was appointed a Major-General of Volunteers, his commission dating from the 7th of December, 1864. In the battle of Nashville, the

Third Division greatly distinguished itself. It carried a prominent position of the enemy, and captured eight pieces of Artillery.

In the final operations before Nashville, Schofield held the left of our line. In the first day's battle the corps was used by General Thomas chiefly as a reserve, but just about sunset he made a sharp attack on the enemy's right, finishing the work that Smith had begun. The next afternoon when the volleys from the carbines of the cavalry announced that the enemy's rear had been gained, Thomas ordered a direct attack by all his forces, and Cox led his men forward with an impetuosity that swept everything before them. They swarmed over the enemy's works, drove them out, and pursued them until night made it impossible for him to advance farther.

This victory completely destroyed the power of the enemy in the West, and enabled the Government to use the troops of General Thomas for operations elsewhere. It was determined to send General Schofield, with the Twenty-third Corps, to the coast of North Carolina, to co-operate with General Sherman in his march from Savannah to

Goldsboro. Accordingly Schofield was ordered by General Grant to move with his corps to Annapolis. He was at Clifton, on the Tennessee River, when he received this order, on the 14th of January. His troops were at once embarked in steamers, with their artillery and horses, leaving behind only their wagons, and conveyed to Cincinnati, whence they were transported by railway to Alexandria, Virginia, an order from the headquarters of the army having changed their destination from Annapolis to that point. In spite of the severe weather and the lateness of the season, the whole corps was assembled at Alexandria on the 31st of January, 1865. The Potomac being frozen over the troops were compelled to remain at this place until the breaking up of the ice permitted the resumption of navigation.

General Schofield, traveling ahead of his corps, went to Fortress Monroe, where he was met by General Grant. The two commanders then went by sea to the mouth of the Cape Fear River, which had just fallen into our possession, and had a long conference with Admiral Porter and

General Terry, respecting the future operations of the army and navy in that quarter. From Fort Fisher they went to Washington, and in accordance with the wishes of General Grant, an order was issued by the War Department creating the Department of North Carolina, and assigning Schofield to the command of it.

About the 5th or 6th of February, the Potomac being open, General Schofield took Cox's division of the 23d Corps, leaving Couch's to follow as rapidly as possible, and embarked for the mouth of the Cape Fear River, which was held by the forces under General Terry, and landed on the beach near Fort Fisher on the 9th of February.

Our troops under General Terry, aided by the Navy under Admiral Porter, had taken Fort Fisher, which commands the entrance to the Cape Fear, but the enemy still held Fort Anderson, on the opposite side of the river, and from this work they occupied a line of breastworks running back to a swamp about three quarters of a mile distant. On the Fort Fisher side their line extended from the river to Masonboro Sound,

across the entire peninsula. This line could be held by the enemy against any attack in front, and could only be turned by marching around the swamp which protected its right, or by crossing Masonboro Sound above its extreme left, both difficult and hazardous operations.*

It seemed utterly impossible for Schofield with his small force to accomplish anything against an army so strongly posted, but as Sherman was rapidly approaching through South Carolina, he felt that he could not afford to lose the time necessary to bring up re-enforcements, and he determined to commence operations at once. His first effort was directed against the enemy's left, and on the 11th of February, two days after his arrival, he advanced General Terry's command, supported by Cox's division, towards the enemy's line, and driving in the Rebel pickets, entrenched two of his brigades so close to the hostile works as to compel the enemy to hold them in force. Having occupied the attention of the Confederate commander at this point, Schofield now pre-

* Sherman and his Campaigns.

pared to turn his right. He sent a number of boats and pontoons by sea to a point on the beach, above the enemy's right flank, and marched Cox's and Ames' divisions along the beach to the same point. His design was for these troops to haul the boats across the land to Masonboro Sound, bridge it, and cross over to the main land, under the cover of the darkness. This would flank a strong column between the enemy's works and Wilmington and compel the loss of one or the other, if not of both.

It was a brilliant plan, but it was not destined to succeed. The night of the 14th of February, which was appointed for the movement, was wild and stormy. A furious gale howled along the coast, and the waves of the ocean came rolling in in huge masses of water which flooded the beach to such an extent that it was almost impossible to drag the pontoons through the Sound. The huge wagons toiled along slowly, and the night was almost gone before half the distance was accomplished. It was found that it would be impossible to reach the place at which it was intended to cross the Sound until after daylight,

when the enemy would discover the movement and prevent the passage. In view of this, the attempt was abandoned, and the troops were withdrawn.

Couch's division of the 23d Corps had now arrived, and General Schofield determined to move against the enemy's right flank on the other side of the river. Accordingly, Cox's and Ames' divisions, and Moore's brigade of Couch's division, were ferried over to Smithville. This force was moved up in front of the Confederate works at Fort Anderson, and a line of intrenchments thrown up, as had been done on the other side of the Cape Fear. Two brigades were left to hold this line, and General Cox, with two brigades of his own and the whole of Ames' division, was ordered to pass around the swamp which covered the enemy's right flank, and gain the Wilmington road in the rear of their line. The distance around the swamp to the point in the enemy's rear which Cox was ordered to gain was fifteen miles, and while our column was on its march the Confederate cavalry detected the movement. Instead of making any attempt to resist the ad-

vance of General Cox, however, the Confederate commander, on the night of the 19th of February, evacuated his works on both sides of the Cape Fear, and fell back to a second line, protected on the east side of the river by marshes, and on the west side by Town Creek. The principal works which the enemy had erected for the defence of Wilmington and the river were now in the hands of General Schofield, and the fall of the city was reduced almost to a question of time.

On the 20th, General Terry moved his troops up in front of the enemy's new line on the east side of the river, and General Cox drew up his forces in front of the works behind Town Creek, the only bridge over which had been destroyed by the Confederates. Cox succeeded in finding one flat boat in the stream, and by means of this crossed a part of his infantry over the creek. Then, wading through the swamps, he attacked the enemy's flank and rear, capturing two cannon and a number of prisoners, and securing the site of the bridge, which he rebuilt during the night. On the 21st he crossed his

artillery at the bridge, and pushed on in the direction of Wilmington. Reaching Brunswick River that afternoon, he captured a part of the enemy's pontoon bridge, and crossing his troops to Eagle Island, prepared to pass the Cape Fear above Wilmington. During this time, General Terry, though unable to carry the enemy's line in his front, had kept the Confederate commander so busy there that he could spare no troops to interrupt Cox's movement.

The appearance of General Cox's column on Eagle Island satisfied the Confederates of their inability to hold the city, and on the night of the 21st, they burned their steamers, cotton, stores, and other public property, and evacuated the place, withdrawing their troops across Northeast River. Early the next morning, the 22d of February, General Terry discovered their withdrawal from his front, and moving forward occupied Wilmington, sending a detachment in pursuit of the enemy as far as Northeast River.

Schofield's brilliant conceptions were thus crowned with success. The principal sea-port of the Confederates was now in our hands, we had

secured a firm base on the North Carolina coast, from which to co-operate with Sherman, and had captured fifty-one heavy guns, fifteen field pieces, and a large amount of ammunition, besides inflicting some loss in men upon the enemy, and we had done all this at a cost of only two hundred men killed and wounded. Both the army and the country might well be proud of the result.

As soon as Wilmington was occupied, a steamer was despatched up the Cape Fear with dispatches for General Sherman, whom it was expected to overtake at Fayetteville, informing him of the success.

Wilmington having fallen, it now became Schofield's duty to advance upon Goldsboro, and open the way for Sherman. To do this it would be necessary to march overland from some point on the coast, and the army was almost destitute of wagon transportation. The railroad from Wilmington could not be used, inasmuch as there was no rolling stock at that point, so that it became necessary to advance upon Goldsboro from Newberne, from which point he could have the use of the railroad.

On the 26th of February, General Cox was sent to Newberne, in command of three divisions, with orders to move along the railroad towards Goldsboro, repairing the road as he advanced. He reached Newberne on the 2d of March, devoted the next day to preparing for his advance, and on the 4th began his march. The enemy endeavored to check his progress by a sharp attack near Kingston, on the 8th, but he drove them off finally, though he at first suffered a repulse of his advance force. On the 10th Bragg renewed the attack with sixteen thousand men, but was repulsed with heavy loss, and driven beyond the Neuse River, the passage of which was secured. The next day, General Cox was re-enforced by the Twenty-third Corps, and Kingston was occupied. The advance was now continued under General Schofield's immediate direction, and on the 22d of March Goldsboro was occupied.

On the 27th the command of the Twenty-third Corps was permanently given to General Cox by the War Department. He led his corps in the movement upon Raleigh, and after Johnston's surrender was placed in command of the Western

half of the State of North Carolina, where he superintended the paroling of Johnson's army at Greensboro.

In July 1865, he was placed in command of the district of Ohio, with his headquarters at Columbus, and was charged with the mustering of the Ohio troops out of the service of the government.

"The military character of General Cox," says the author of *Ohio In the War*, may be read in the barrenest record of his career. He was not a great general. He was not even a great corps commander. He never seemed brilliant, but he was generally safe. He never displayed the inspiration of war, but he generally followed sound rules of war. He was too cold to be loved by his troops, but when they had been some time under his command, they never failed to respect him. He was too tame and methodical to be admired by his commanders, but when they came to know him well they never failed to trust and to advance him. And it can be truly said of him—so correct and prudent was he—that on the day of his muster out he stood higher in the esteem

of the Government and the country, than he had on any previous day throughout his military career."

In the summer of 1865, he was elected Governor of Ohio. During the campaign, in reply to a request on the part of some of his Oberlin friends to know his views in relation to the question of negro suffrage, he declared himself utterly opposed to conferring such rights upon the blacks, and supported himself by some very sound arguments. His letter gave great offence to the extreme Republicans, and caused his vote to fall considerably short of that cast for the general ticket. He resigned his commission in the army to enter upon the Governorship of the State. He discharged his duties faithfully, and was admitted on all sides to have made a model Governor, but his administration was marked by no event of importance. He gave still further offence to the Radical wing of his party by an effort to secure sympathy for President Johnson among the members of the Ohio delegation in Congress.

He declined to be a candidate for re-election,

and determined to apply himself to the task of acquiring a fortune. Removing to Cincinnati, he began the practice of law, and soon acquired a large and profitable business, which he declined to relinquish for any political appointment. President Johnson offered to make him Commissioner of Internal Revenue but he declined to accept it, and it is said would have refused to serve as Secretary of War had the post been offered him, as Grant desired, during the Stanton difficulty.

General Cox enjoys the entire confidence of the new President, and it is doubtless his warm friendship for his chief which has induced him to depart from his resolution to confine himself to his private business, and accept the Secretaryship to which he has been called.

“In personal appearance General Cox is trim, compact and elegant. His accomplishments correspond to the ideas which his ideas suggests.

* * He was a well learned lawyer. He was well versed in belles-lettres. He read French fluently, and was as familiar with French novels as with French works of tactics. He was learned in military literature—was, indeed, before the

outbreak of the war, something of a military scholar. He was well read in remoter channels—in history and the philosophy of politics. He wrote with nervous grace and force. His style in extemporaneous debate was a model of condensed power and skill. On the freer arena of the ‘stump,’ he acquitted himself creditably. He had a still rarer accomplishment—he fenced well.”*

Says the New York *Tribune*: “Among all the prominent public men of Ohio there is no one his superior (and not more than one his equal) in classical scholarship, in familiarity with modern literature, and in acquaintance with the latest results of philosophical thinkers on Political Economy and Finance. He has a methodical, prompt, crisp way of doing business, and is admirably fitted for the executive work of the Interior or any of the other Departments.”

* Ohio in the War.

GEORGE S. BOUTWELL,
Secretary of the Treasury.

GEORGE S. BOUTWELL was born at Brookline, Massachusetts, on the 28th of January, 1818. His parents were persons of moderate means, and he was debarred by this circumstance from acquiring a better education than could be gained by a few years' attendance at the public schools of his neighborhood. When very young he was taken from school, and put to labor on a farm in order that his earnings might contribute to the support of his family. He did not remain long in this position, however, but entered a store in the town of Groton, Massachusetts, as an apprentice. The next twenty years of his life were passed in this place. He worked hard and faithfully, and from an apprentice rose to be a clerk, and at length became the proprietor of his own store.

During these twenty years he had been working equally well in another field. Aware of the deficiencies in his early education he studied hard to acquire knowledge, and in the time we have mentioned, by dint of his energy and patient industry, went through as full and severe a course of studies as that required of the graduate of any college in the land. He was not satisfied with this, however. Although he was far advanced in his manhood, he devoted himself to the study of the law, and mastered it so determinedly that in a few years he was called to the bar.

Being determined to rise in his new calling, he abandoned his mercantile pursuits entirely, and devoted himself to his profession with such ardor that he acquired a fair practice from the first, and in a few years won a reputation as a lawyer, which was flattering to say the least.

He took a deep interest in politics from the first, and identified himself with the Whig party. In 1842 he was elected to the Legislature of Massachusetts, in which he served for seven successive years. Upon leaving the Legislature, he returned again to private life, but was not des-

tined to remain long at home. His services as a legislator had won him so much credit that his party, in 1851, nominated him for the high office of Governor of the State, and elected him by a handsome majority. His administration was eminently satisfactory to the Whigs, and he was re-elected Governor in 1852, giving equal satisfaction during his second term. In 1853 he was elected a member of the Convention which met for the purpose of revising the Constitution of the State.

For two years, Mr. Boutwell held the office of Bank Commissioner, for eleven years he was Secretary of the Board of Education, of Massachusetts, and for six years one of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College. He discharged the duties of these various positions with great credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the people.

In 1861, he was appointed a member of the Peace Conference, which met in Washington for the purpose of averting the War, but which failed to accomplish its object. The next year he was made by President Lincoln the Commissioner of

the Internal Revenue, an office which had just been created. He served with credit in this capacity until March, 1863. Having been elected to the House of Representatives, in the Fall of 1862, he resigned his position as the head of the Internal Revenue Bureau, and took his seat in Congress. He has been regularly returned ever since. He was a delegate to the National Republican Convention, which met at Baltimore in 1864, and nominated Mr. Lincoln for a second term as President.

He took a prominent part in the legislation of Congress, and the measures of the Administration for the prosecution of the War received his cordial support. He hailed the emancipation proclamation of Mr. Lincoln with delight, and advocated all the measures connected with or growing out of it. He was one of the earliest and staunchest supports of the measures for employing negro troops, and also one of the first, after the War, to advocate negro suffrage. Early in 1865, he said in a speech before the Emancipation League, at a meeting held in Boston, "That he had the fullest faith that the people of this

country will rise to a full comprehension of the great question, and will look for no restoration of these States except on the foundation of justice. He wanted the two districts known as the States of South Carolina and Florida re-organized by the next Congress as Territories, and the colored people invited to settle there—not in any way compelled to do so—and build up States of their own, from which they might in a few years send black representatives to Congress.”

Mr. Boutwell is a member of the ultra Radical Wing of the Republican party, and a prominent champion of its most extreme measures. He took an active part in the measures for the impeachment of President Johnson. In November, 1867, he presented to the House the first report advocating the impeachment measures, and when that step was finally resolved upon, was appointed, and served as one of the managers on the part of the House.

His views on financial matters are in harmony with those of his party, and are well expressed in the following brief summary :

HIS PLAN FOR PAYING THE DEBT.

“The question of the funding of the national debt being before the House July 21, 1868, Mr. Boutwell introduced a substitute for the Senate bill and the bill reported to the House from the Committee of the Whole. The latter provided for the funding of the entire interest-bearing public debt, amounting to \$2,150,000,000, all of it payable in coin upon forty years’ time, and at three and sixty-five hundredths per cent. rate of interest. Mr. Boutwell said :

“The amendment to which I wish to call the attention of the House provides for the funding of \$1,200,000,000 of the public debt, \$400,000,000 payable in fifteen years at five per cent. interest, \$400,000,000 payable in twenty years at four and a half per cent. interest, and \$400,000,000 payable in twenty-five years at three and sixty-five hundredths per cent. interest ; the latter sum of \$400,000,000 payable, principal and interest, at the option of the taker, either in the United States or at London, Paris, or Frankfort.

HE TAKES A HOPEFUL VIEW OF THE DEBT.

“When we consider the rapid development of the resources of this country, its increase of population and the augmentation of wealth, there is no hazard in the prediction that our excess of

revenue to be applied to the liquidation of the public debt will not be less in any future year than it will be in the present year. Now, sir, a nation is distinguished from individuals in its financial affairs in the particular I am now considering. If an individual owes a debt three, five, or ten years hence, and has money which he could now apply to that debt, if it be not in the terms of the contract that he shall pay it immediately, he may use that money in various other pursuits, in business, in enterprises, or even hazards, and pay his debt when it matures. But a government is differently situated. Unless it be absolute poverty in the national treasury, I know of no condition of things more disadvantageous to public credit than the possession of large funds in the treasury without any present means of using those funds in a legitimate and proper way.

THE DEBT A TRIFLING AFFAIR AFTER ALL.

“Sir, this debt looks pretty large, but it is a small debt for this country, when you consider that we paid \$1,000,000,000 in less than three years. What is to be said of the \$2,000,000,000 remaining? Why, sir, when the war of 1812 closed, our public debt was \$127,000,000. That does not look large to us, but it was as heavy a debt for the seven millions of people in the

United States at that time, considering that a day's labor would not produce more than thirty-three per cent. in gold of what it will produce now, as the \$2,000,000,000 of debt is to the people of the country at the present time.

HIS OPINION ABOUT SELLING TREASURY GOLD.

“I object to the sale of gold. If we require the Secretary of the Treasury to advertise that he will be ready at any time to pay the interest on the debt next to become due, the public creditors abating the interest on the payments which he makes to them, there will be always opportunity for those who own coupons or those who choose to buy coupons to command the gold that is in the treasury ; and at any rate the amount which he advertises that he will pay upon demand, is so much gold upon the markets of the country. The difference between this proposition and the proposition to sell gold is, that we pay out gold where it is to be paid, and relieve ourselves of interest becoming due next October, next November, or next January, and also improve the credit of the country. Coupled with that is a provision prohibiting all sales of gold by the Secretary of the Treasury. I need not make any suggestions to this House, in the way of reasons or arguments in favor of taking from the Secretary a

power which, if honestly exercised, can never be productive of any good whatsoever.

WHAT HE THINKS OF PAYING THE FIVE-TWENTIES
IN GOLD.

[Mr. Randall, of Pennsylvania, asked Mr. Boutwell if he believed the five-twenty bond were payable in gold ?]

“I will state exactly what is my opinion on that subject. When we issued \$500,000,000 of five-twenties, we stipulated to the public creditors that the United States notes, known as greenbacks, should never be issued in excess of four hundred millions. That was the first stipulation. The second stipulation was that we would not compel payment under five years, but there was a stipulation over and above the law, inherent in the very nature of society, in the experience and tradition of all mankind, that every nation in its senses, actuated by an honest purpose, if, when struggling with vicissitudes, it was obliged to resort to forced loans, an extraordinary means of raising money, by which its credit was impaired and its securities are forced below the par value of gold, that such a nation should make every honest effort possible for the resumption of specie payments and the restoration of its public credit. That obligation rests upon us. Now, if according

to the terms of the act of 1864 it does not appear beyond all cavil that we might not pay these bonds in greenbacks, in the same act it does appear that we shall never issue more than \$400,000,000 of greenbacks."

ADOLPH E. BORIE,
Secretary of the Navy.

ADOLPH E. BORIE was born in the City of Philadelphia, in the year 1809, and is now in his sixtieth year. He is a member of one of the oldest and most aristocratic families of Pennsylvania, and is a gentleman of great wealth. His ancestors, on his father's side, came from Bordeaux, and have long been amongst the leading merchants in Philadelphia. His mother was the daughter of a wealthy planter of St. Domingo, who was compelled to leave that island during the frightful negro insurrections of the last century.

The subject of this sketch was educated at the University of Pennsylvania, where he graduated at the age of sixteen. Upon reaching his twenty-fourth year he went to Paris to complete his studies. He was possessed of unusual intelligence

and application, and passed successfully through all his examinations. After finishing his education he traveled for several years in Europe, acquiring a personal knowledge of the old world, which was destined to be of great service to him in his after life.

Returning to Philadelphia, he entered into business there, and soon became a member of the celebrated firm of McKean Borie & Co., of that city. He displayed great ability as a merchant, and it was not long before he became one of the principal importers of the country. His efforts were at an early day given to developing the China trade, which he foresaw would one day become one of the most important interests of the country, and he has had the satisfaction of seeing his expectations realized, and his wealth grow with the increase of that trade. He has established a proud name as a merchant and as a man in his native city, and has amassed in his honored calling an immense fortune, which he dispenses liberally in support of all objects the wisdom and beneficence of which command his approval.

Though never an active participant in political

struggles, Mr. Borie has been careful to exercise his rights and discharge his duties as a citizen, and has therefore taken a keen interest in the great questions of the day. He was a Whig, at the outset, and during the existence of that party voted for and sustained its men and measures. Upon the organization of the Republican party, he became a member of it, and has voted regularly with it ever since. He is still a faithful follower of the doctrines of Henry Clay, and an ardent advocate of the principle of "protection to American industry." He voted for Mr. Lincoln, and contributed as far as lay in his power to the success of the Republicans in 1860.

Upon the breaking out of the War, he promptly declared himself in favor of a vigorous and uncompromising prosecution of the struggle. His convictions as to the necessity of preserving the Union, were based upon his great experience and wisdom as a man of business, as well as his devotion to the cause of his country. He set a shining example of liberality and self-sacrifice in the practical aid he extended to the Government. He bore the expense of equipping and sending to

the field several regiments of troops from his own State, and gave his personal attention to the task of getting them off promptly and in good order ; and it is a fact well known in Philadelphia that he was always amongst the first to subscribe liberally to any object calculated to advance the cause of the Union. The amount of money thus contributed by him is not known to us, at present, but there can be no doubt that it was more than the fortune of many a rich man.

These services and patriotic sacrifices made Mr. Borie a marked man in his native city, and raised him high in the affectionate esteem of the loyal citizens. When the Union League of Philadelphia was organized, Mr. Borie was made its Vice-President. Sympathizing fully with the object of the organization he contributed to it a large part of the princely sum by which it was enabled to erect its magnificent club house.

Soon after the close of the War, General Grant, during a visit to the club house, took occasion to compliment one of the members upon the liberality displayed by the League during the War, and asked where such large sums as had been given

were raised. General Meade, hearing the remark, presented Mr. Borie to his commander, and informed him that this gentleman was one of the principal contributors to the fund of the organization. It seems that General Grant and Mr. Borie were favorably impressed with each other from the first and their acquaintance soon ripened into a warm friendship. The result of this intimacy is the bestowal upon Mr. Borie of the high office of Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. Borie is rather below the medium height, and is both handsome and dignified in appearance. His hair and beard are white, and his countenance is grave and thoughtful, yet withal kind and pleasant. In manner he is polite to all, and is a fair specimen of the polished gentleman of the old school—a race fast disappearing from our land. He is very popular in his own city with all classes, and is both esteemed and loved by his friends.

His business connections in Philadelphia are many and extensive. Besides being a member of one of the largest importing houses in the city, he is a director in the National Bank of Commerce, a member of the Board of Trade, a manager

of the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society—one of the oldest and best institutions of its kind in the Union—and is connected with a number of charitable and benevolent institutions.

Having taken no active part in politics, he enters upon his new position, free from any party ties or pledges, and will administer its duties faithfully and impartially. His extensive business knowledge, his admitted capacity, and his vast experience, render him a valuable counsellor to the President, and a safe head for the department over which he presides.

JOHN A. J. CRESSWELL,
Post-Master General.

JOHN A. J. CRESSWELL was born on the 8th of March, 1828. His parents being possessed of abundant means, he was given an excellent education. He graduated at Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, with the first honors of his class in 1848. He was now a little over twenty years of age, and having decided to adopt the law as his profession, at once entered upon his studies. He was admitted to the bar two years later. He devoted himself with energy to his profession, and in a few years acquired a fair practice, which grew larger year by year, until at the time of his entrance into political life, he was justly regarded as one of the most prominent and successful lawyers in the State.

His first votes were cast for the Whig party, with which he sympathized and acted until the

disappearance of that organization from the political arena. His profession claimed his principal attention, however, and he was not disposed to neglect its sure rewards for the uncertainties of party triumphs.

In 1850, a General Convention was held in the State of Maryland, for the purpose of remodeling the Constitution of the Commonwealth. Mr. Cresswell was nominated by the Whigs of Cecil County to represent them in this Convention. His opponent was the late Judge Constable, the Democratic candidate, whose popularity in Cecil County was so great as to ensure the defeat of any one who had the temerity to oppose him. The Judge was also a man of great eloquence and profound ability, and one whom very few cared to encounter on the stump. Mr. Cresswell canvassed the county with him, and, though a young man, won considerable distinction by the able manner in which he encountered his veteran antagonist. When the election came on, he was defeated by a small majority.

After this he confined himself to his profession, taking no active part in politics. Upon the de-

mise of the Whig party he voted with the Democracy, and was generally regarded as a member of that organization at the breaking out the rebellion. Finding, however, that the sympathies of that party were with the Southern States, and its members were in favor of the secession of Maryland from the Union, he withdrew from all connection with them, and declared himself a supporter of the Constitution and laws of his country. Foreseeing the terrible evils which war would bring upon the land, and knowing that in case of hostilities his own State would be apt to be the battle-ground, he labored earnestly and actively in behalf of a peaceful settlement of our national troubles. His efforts were in vain, however, and finding that war could not be avoided, he declared himself uncompromisingly for the Union.

In the fall of 1861, he was elected to the Maryland Legislature from Cecil County. He rendered good service in this body in behalf of the Union cause, and his conduct received the hearty endorsement of his constituents. In 1862, he was appointed Adjutant-General of the State,

and discharged the duties of that office with vigor and ability, exerting himself to the utmost to develop the Union sentiment of Maryland, and procure and send forward recruits for the national army. In the fall of 1862, he was elected to the Thirty-eighth Congress from the Cecil District.

He entered the House of Representatives a comparatively unknown man, and laboring under all the disadvantages peculiar to the position of a new member. His warmest welcome came from his friend, the great Baltimore orator, Winter Davis. Between these men a warm and active friendship had existed for some years, and when the latter was questioned by his friends as to the probable success of his colleague, he did not hesitate to speak of Cresswell as a man destined to make a name in the history of the country.

Mr. Cresswell served during the Thirty-eighth Congress on the Committees on Commerce and Pensions. He made little or no reputation, however, until January, 1865, when the consideration of that portion of the President's message referring to the abolition of slavery drew him out.

Upon this occasion he more than realized the predictions of his friend Mr. Davis, and delivered one of the most eloquent and powerful speeches of the session. In the course of his remarks, he related the following interesting incident :

“ You will not wonder,” said he, “ at my confidence in the improvement of the negro race when I relate an incident which came under my own observation. Our struggle for emancipation was fierce and closely contested. For a long time the result was in doubt. The soldiers’ vote finally settled it in our favor by a majority of less than four hundred ; but the advocates of slavery, unwilling, though fairly beaten, to surrender a field which they had held so long without dispute, did their utmost, after the election, to defeat the voice of the people, by a resort to protests, and injunctions, and writs of mandamus, and every other device which the ingenuity of counsel could invent. The Governor’s proclamation, declaring the triumph of the friends of freedom, in spite of rebel votes and the ‘ law’s delay,’ did not reach the southern section of the State until Monday, the 31st October, when a steamer from Baltimore

brought the official document. A Union meeting was held that day at Cambridge, in Dorchester county, at which it was made known, to the infinite disgust of every faithful follower of Jeff. Davis, that the next day would see Maryland a free State. I know not how the word passed ; I saw no flashing beacon, nor flaming brand, nor speeding courier ; but as I traveled in open carriage that night to fill an appointment next day, more than fifty miles away, it seemed as if the very air had borne the glad tidings before me. All Africa was abroad ; some on horseback, some in wagons, but nearly all on foot, moving along, singing and joyful. When, later in the night, I was journeying wearily through the sighing pines, my curiosity was excited by the fact that ever and anon a bright light would suddenly burst upon me. Knowing that country people were usually at that hour a-bed, these lights were a mystery to me. Turning to my companion, I asked an explanation. He replied, ‘The lights you see are at the meeting-houses of the negroes, who have met for the purpose of holding watch-meetings to welcome in the 1st of November.’

The mystery was explained. The negroes had assembled at midnight, in their rude churches, hastily built by the roadside, in the woods, or down at the marshes, to watch for the advent of their day of jubilee, in order that they might receive their earliest experience of Heaven's priceless gift to man—thrice-blessed liberty—while on their knees before the Father of all. Surely, a people who will thus dedicate the first moments of their freedom to God are worthy to be free."

Says the *New York Tribune*, in referring to this speech :

"Davis had been preparing the way for him by assuring his friends that Cresswell would yet make his mark. When he rose, therefore, he soon secured the attention of those about him,—an unusual thing for a new member in the House, rising in the midst of a debate, to read a written speech. His fine presence and impressive style of reading, however, soon gained him the ear of the House ; and when he came to eulogize the Proclamation of Emancipation, and to tell how it was received by the poor negroes who at midnight prayer meetings in the cabins of the Eastern

shore, spent the hours snatched from toil in praying God to make them worthy of the great gift bestowed upon them, he rose to a pitch of genuine eloquence that secured undivided attention and unbroken silence. He was most warmly congratulated as he took his seat, and the effort was on all hands pronounced one of the most successful ever made in that Hall by a new member. From that day he rapidly rose to a commanding position in State and National politics."

Mr. Cresswell labored hard in behalf of the blacks. His friends wished him to serve in the Constitutional Convention of the State, but, being a member of Congress, he declined their request. He had the satisfaction of seeing slavery abolished in his State during the Fall of 1864.

He was a member of the National Republican Convention at Baltimore, which nominated Mr. Lincoln for re-election to the Presidency, and took an active part in the campaign which followed. He was himself a candidate for re-election to Congress, but was defeated by Mr. Hiram McCullough. He had nothing to regret in this defeat, however. The death of Governor Hicks, in the Spring of 1865, created a vacancy in the

United States Senate, and in March, of that year, Mr. Cresswell was chosen by the Legislature to serve during the unexpired term of the deceased Senator.

He entered the Senate in March 1865, and soon took a high position in that body. He served on several important committees, and was intimately connected with the principal legislation of the Thirty-ninth Congress. He was selected by Congress to pronounce a eulogy upon the life and character of Henry Winter Davis, upon the occasion of the death of his friend, a duty which he discharged with great credit to himself. He was one of the first to take issue with President Johnson in the memorable quarrel between the Executive and Congress, and to the close of his term was one of the most unflinching champions of the cause of Congress. He was not re-elected to the Senate at the close of his term, and retired into private life, being regarded, however, as the leader of his party in Maryland.

In 1866 he was a delegate to the Southern Loyalist's Convention, held in Philadelphia, in which body he headed the Border State opposi-

tion to the demand for negro suffrage. He opposed it, not because he was hostile to it, but because he did not believe in the expediency of going into the political campaign of that year with negro suffrage as an issue. Events justified his prudence. At present he is one of the most ardent advocates of impartial suffrage.

In the Spring of 1868, he was a member of the Maryland Delegation to the Chicago Convention, and was declared by his associates to be their first choice for the Vice-Presidency. Mr. Fulton, insisted in the Convention, on placing him in nomination ; but when the vote came to be taken, Mr. Cresswell declared that he was not a candidate, and did not desire to appear before the Convention as such. He then stated that his preference was for Senator Wade, of Ohio, for whom he cast his vote. He engaged actively in the Presidential Campaign, but without success, so far as his own State was concerned. Maryland was carried by the Democrats by a heavy majority, his own district giving a Democratic majority of over eight thousand.

When Col. Forney resigned the Secretaryship

of the Senate, Mr. Cresswell's friends urged him to be a candidate for the position. It was universally conceded that his election would be sure, if he would accept the office, but he declined it.

After the result of the last Presidential election was known, General Grant was earnestly importuned by many of the leading men of the Republican party, to offer Mr. Cresswell a seat in his Cabinet. "Vice-President Colfax, ex-Vice-President Hamlin, Senator Wade, and a number of other leading Senators," says the *Baltimore American*, "took occasion to speak to General Grant in terms of high commendation of his ability and personal character and eminent services to the Republican cause. The delegations to Congress from Maine, Connecticut, and Michigan, and a portion of Pennsylvania also took a deep interest in his accession to the Cabinet, while a majority of the Senators and Representatives from the Southern States memorialized the President in favor of his selection as the representative of the Southern and Border States. There was also a very kindly feeling expressed among the Republicans generally in his favor."

Mr. Cresswell was doubtless appointed as the representative of the Republican party in the entire South, as he does not in any sense represent the political faith of the people of Maryland, which State is now Democratic by a large majority. He belongs to the extreme Radical wing of the Republican party, and is in favor of "reconstructing" the State of Maryland by the same process that has been applied to the more Southern States. He is an ardent partisan and is prepared to stand by the political organization to which he belongs under any and all circumstances. He is still a young man, and to his natural abilities adds a large experience, and a vigor and energy, which admirably qualify him for his new position.

EBENEZER R. HOAR,
Attorney-General.

EBENEZER ROCKWOOD HOAR was born in Concord, Massachusetts, in the year 1816. He is the son of the late Hon. Samuel Hoar of that town.

Mr. Hoar, Sr., was regarded as the leading lawyer of Middlesex County, and as the peer of any of the great men who have practiced at the Massachusetts bar. He was not an orator, but is said to have possessed an earnestness and power of persuasion which rendered him eminently successful in his profession. He served one term in Congress, and about twenty-five years ago was sent by Massachusetts to Charleston, S. C., to defend the rights of her colored sailors, who were seized by the authorities of South Carolina, and imprisoned as soon as they came into the port of that State "as a means of preventing the spread of Abolition doctrines." Mr. Hoar was driven out of the city by a mob, and his

mission thwarted. He married Sarah Sherman, a daughter of Roger Sherman, of Connecticut, by whom he had several children. He died in 1856.

Young Hoar was carefully educated in the best schools of his State, and in 1835 graduated at Harvard College. He immediately entered upon the study of the law, and passed some time in the office of that eminent jurist, Charles Allen, of Worcester. He entered into public life at an early age as a Whig. He was a member of the State Senate about 1846; "at any rate at the time of the controversy between the 'conscience' and the 'cotton' whigs, which culminated in the free soil bolt of 1848. These old names are mentioned because the distinction which they imply took its rise in a remark by Mr. Hoar during a speech in the Senate when he was a member. He was with Sumner, and Allen, and S. C. Phillips, and Wilson and Palfrey in the free soil movement, and especially active in the canvass in Middlesex between Palfrey and his whig opponents, which began with the opposition of the former to Mr. Winthrop's election to the Speaker-

ship of the Lower House of Congress in 1848, when Charles Allen and Henry Wilson originated the free soil bolt by denouncing Taylor's nomination in the Philadelphia Convention. Mr. Hoar led off in the new movement. He wrote the circular which called the State Convention in Massachusetts, and which resulted in the formation of a party of 36,000 voters, who within three years broke down Mr. Webster and the whig party, elected Charles Sumner to the seat he now holds, and placed Governor Boutwell in the gubernatorial chair. The ground on which the opposition was put in this circular was, that General Taylor was not a whig, and that the whig party had been substantially disbanded by his nomination. This was not perhaps creditable to the candor of Mr. Hoar and his brethren, but, considering the overpowering influence of Mr. Webster and the social and political supremacy of whigism in the State, it was as far as they saw fit to go."

Soon after this he was appointed a judge of the Court of Common Pleas, but resigned the office in a short time to resume the practice of his profession.

He opened an office in Boston, and soon acquired a large and lucrative practice. While on the bench of the Common Pleas, he distinguished himself by a bold and uncompromising decision against the constitutionality of the fugitive slave law.

In 1859 he was made a Judge of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, which position he held up to the fourth of the present month (March 1869). It was expected when Judge Biglow resigned the office of Chief Justice of the State, Judge Hoar was to be appointed his successor. Governor Bullock, however, refused to nominate him, in consequence, it is said, of a quarrel with the Judge's brother, Hon. George F. Hoar, of Worcester, the member of Congress from the Eighth District. He nominated Judge Thomas. The friends of Judge Hoar resented this indignity,* and succeeded in defeating the Governor's nomination when it came before the council for confirmation. The result was a com-

* Judge Hoar being the senior judge was entitled by custom to the promotion.

promise between the Governor and the friends of Judge Hoar, by which Judge Chapman was nominated and confirmed.

Judge Hoar's legal abilities are of the first order. He stands high in a State that has produced many of the most eminent lawyers of the land. He lacks eloquence and enthusiasm as an orator, but he brings to the aid of his vast professional knowledge a solidity and straightforwardness of argument which make him a formidable opponent at the bar. As a judge he has no superior. His decisions are irreproachable, and his opinions are quoted and received everywhere with the profoundest respect. In consideration of these qualities it is evident that no better selection for the high position to which he has been called, could have been made.

Judge Hoar is in the prime of life, and in the full vigor of his intellect. He is fond of social life, and possesses the affectionate regard of a large and influential circle of friends. He is said to be very witty, and to possess a keen relish of humor in others. Says the New York *Herald*:

“He is spoken of as a radical, but this remark

will not apply to him except as an anti-slavery man. His ancestry is federal and conservative, and his tastes and habits, especially of late years, have led him into conservative ways. Upon all topics growing out of the war and the extinction of slavery he would be likely to be radical, for he inherits a hatred of that special form of aristocracy which Sumner calls 'an oligarchy of the skin,' and has a contempt for all slaveholding pretensions to superior breeding and chivalry. He would be much more likely to go with Mr. Dana than General Butler, and if he has anything to do with the distribution of the offices, the peculiar friends of the Essex member will not be likely to have more than an even chance."

James Russell Lowell has thus familiarized him to the readers of the *Biglow papers*, a description which many who read these pages will doubtless recognize :

" An' I've ben sense a-visitin' the Jedge,
Whose garding whispers with the river's edge,
Where I've sot mornin's lazy as the bream
Whose on'y business is to head up stream,
(We call 'em punkin'-seed,) or else in chat,
Along 'till the Jedge, who covers with his hat
More wit, an' gumption, an' shrewd Yankee sense
Than there is mosses on an ole stone fence."

